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Rabin: No vote till PLO amends charter

PM confident aid will continue

HILLEL KUTTIL
 LOS ANGELES

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday that he would not agree to Palestinian elections until the PLO amends clauses in its charter calling for Israel's destruction, media reports said. Rabin was speaking to Israeli reporters accompanying him on his flight to the US, which arrived in California early yesterday morning.

On the first day of his US visit, Rabin began making his public pitch for maintaining the \$3 billion annual aid package from the US. A week after the Republican takeover of both houses of Congress, some believe the aid may be at risk.

"We believe that in this period, when Israel takes risks for peace...Israel needs to be supported," Rabin told an AIPAC forum.

"Whatever we get, call it FMS [foreign military sales] money, civilian [aid], the purpose is security. We pay back our debts," he said.

Commenting on the Republican landslide, Rabin said Israel, "noted the changes taking place, but we note that the basic needs, basic interests...remain as they were."

Rabin noted that Israel had supplied the US with mine-clearing equipment during the Gulf War.

Tank shields used to remove Iraqi mines were dispatched to the Gulf during Operation Desert Storm after "they were requested urgently by the US," he said.

Rabin expressed confidence that congressional support for Israel would continue.

"Whatever the changes, as in changes of presidency, we saw the same line of thinking in the past, and we'll see it in the future," he said.

Rabin is due to meet President Bill Clinton at the White House next Monday. Aides say he hopes to meet with members of the new Republican leadership, but with Congress still in recess, many of them will not be in Washington at that time.

Rabin later spoke before the Jewish Federation Council, and stressed the importance of Jewish youngsters visiting Israel. "Any system of Jewish education here, without linking it to the Israel experience, will not help you," he said.

Following his remarks, federation leaders announced a \$500,000 gift to the federation's Israel Experience program, which will fund trips to Israel for local Jewish youth. The gift came from the estate of the late federation leader, Allen Ziegler.

Rabin was due to meet late yesterday in Beverly Hills with leading movie actors and producers who have publicly supported the peace process. The meeting was also aimed at encouraging investment in the Israeli film industry, consular officials said. Among the entertainers who arrived at the meeting were Warren Beatty, Richard Dreyfuss and Elizabeth Taylor.

Rabin was also due to receive a peacekeeper award from the Ronald Reagan Library.

Soldier bags unusual bus ride to capital

HERB KEINON

MAGEN David Adom was summoned to the Jerusalem central bus station yesterday to treat an IDF soldier who was complaining of breathing difficulty. There was good reason for the breathing problems - the soldier spent the journey from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem riding in the bus's enclosed baggage compartment. The soldier, who refused to be interviewed or photographed, told Jerusalem police who questioned him that while he was placing his luggage in the baggage compartment, the door closed on him and trapped him inside.

The soldier was taken to Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Kerem. His condition, according to a Magen David Adom spokesman, was "not serious."



Israel defender Moshe Glan goes flying after a tackle by Azerbaijan defender Fisoili Allahverdiev, during Israel's 2-0 win in their European Championship Group 1 qualifier in Trabzon, Turkey last night. (Story Page 10)

Survey: Public buying fewer tomatoes while prices high

News agencies

A GALLUP poll has found that 19% of the public has completely stopped buying tomatoes as a result of their high price, whereas 25% have significantly cut their consumption.

Twenty-one percent of the 350 participants said they were continuing to buy tomatoes as usual.

The survey was conducted on Tuesday, before Finance Minister Avraham Shohat called on the public to stop buying tomatoes.

Meanwhile, 90 percent of over

2,000 people responding to a call-in survey on Israel Radio said they would be willing to abstain from eating tomatoes until the price drops.

In Amman yesterday, an official said Jordanian and Israeli traders were trying to work out deals for exporting Jordanian tomatoes to Israel. The first shipment of toma-

atoes is expected today, Channel 1 reported last night.

The tomatoes will be the first Jordanian product imported here.

Abdul-Rahman Abu-Sneeh, marketing manager of the state-run Agricultural Marketing Corporation, said the government had issued permits for export but the two sides had still not agreed on prices and other

terms.

"If Jordanian exporters and Israeli importers reach a deal on the appropriate price, we expect that Jordanian traders will export 150 metric tons a day," he said.

The shipments would be sent across the Jordan River bridge in the North.

"If the Israeli market is in need of other agriculture items, the AMC is ready to issue licenses for those exports also," he said.

Israel 'may have 200 nuclear weapons' - analyst

LONDON (Reuters) - Israel may have up to 200 nuclear weapons and could be testing a cruise missile, a US-based analyst said in Britain's *Jane's Intelligence Review*.

Harold Hough, who studied recent satellite images, said in the monthly magazine that Israel regarded its nuclear capability as a last resort if faced with annihilation.

The nuclear weapons included gravity bombs, missiles, artillery shells, landmines and special demolition devices, the Arizona-based writer on satellite imagery and military issues said.

"There is also evidence that Israel is testing a sea-launched cruise missile in order to add another

facet to its nuclear deterrent," Hough said after charting bunker locations and production centers. Although many Israeli nuclear weapons are strategic, that is long-range, a large number are "purely tactical," according to Hough.

He said the siting of these strategic missiles in the Judean foothills, a defensible area which would be the last to fall to an enemy, was evidence of a "last resort" policy.

"This clearly signals that Israel does not consider the nuclear option to be a first-strike weapon but a last resort device that would only be used if the state of Israel is threatened with annihilation," Hough said.

He said a missile base near Kfar Zicharya, in the Beit Shemesh area, is the home for Israel's strategic nuclear deterrent.

Built in 1967, it is still undergoing expansion according to current satellite imagery, he said.

To the southeast, a newer missile site was built in the early 1980s to house Jericho II long-range missiles, he said.

"Assuming one bunker per Jericho II missile, the site houses 50 nuclear-tipped missiles," the article said.

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Jordanians hora-fied by Israeli dancing

HAIM SHAPIRO
 and news agencies

A GROUP of Israeli tourists, among the first to visit Jordan officially, caused an uproar at their hotel by dancing uninhibited at a wedding, a newspaper said.

Guests at the gala party on Monday were taken by surprise when Israelis entered the wedding hall and began dancing with the rest of the guests, the *Al-Azwaq* newspaper said yesterday.

"The singer welcomed them, sparking opposition from the guests in a development that could have led to a fight had it not been for the interference of those who love peace," it said.

The Jerusalem Hotel in Amman, where the wedding took place, had no comment.

Some 600,000 Israelis are interested in visiting Jordan this year and almost half probably will, according to a survey conducted by the Institute for Spatial Analysis.

The survey, by the Institute's Geographical Research Institute, headed by Prof. Avi Dagan and Dr. Rina Dagan, was conducted among a selected sample of 537 adult Israeli Jews. According to its findings, about 237,000 Israelis will probably visit Jordan during the coming year. This is about the same number as visited Turkey last year.

The survey also found that almost half of the Israeli population has no interest in visiting Jordan. Of these, 23% said they were afraid or were insecure about the Jordanians, while



An Israeli tourist waves at the end of his tour of the ancient city of Jarash yesterday. (Reuters)

17% said that they were uninterested in visiting Jordan in particular or any Arab state. Another 29% said that they had no plans to go anywhere outside the country during the coming year.

Groups showing particular interest in going to Jordan included

those with higher education, the secular, and those with above average incomes. Fear or insecurity about traveling to Jordan was particularly evident in the group with 10 or less years of schooling and those with less than average income.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian newspaper *Shihani* reported that Israel and Jordan will exchange diplomats on November 27. Political sources told the paper: "The embassies will open and the ambassadors will take their places according to the usual protocol."

Kuwaiti minister: End of boycott 'a matter of time'

Beilin: The most interesting statement heard recently

KUWAIT (AP) - Information Minister Sheikh Saud Sabah was quoted yesterday W as saying that it was a matter of time before the Arabs end their boycott of Israel.

"I want to make it clear that lifting the boycott of Israel has become a matter of time after the bilateral recognitions between Israel and the Arab parties in the struggle," Sheikh Saud said, according to the pro-government *Al-Anba* daily. Arab states have forbidden deal-

ings with Israel since its creation in 1948. The Arab League established the Damascus-based Boycott Office in May 1951, to monitor the ban.

All economic contacts with Israel were banned and companies which had dealings with it were blacklisted in the Arab world.

Kuwait and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council - Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman - have dropped the secondary boycott rules related to blacklisting foreign

firms. But the six oil-rich nations have said they would continue to prohibit direct dealings with Israel until it has resolved its disputes with its immediate Arab neighbors.

Sheikh Saud's remarks, however, indicated that Kuwait did not plan to wait indefinitely before taking other steps which would help end Israel's political and commercial isolation in the Middle East.

"The existence of Israel is a fact," Sheikh Saud told *Al-Anba*. "Our

security and stability are connected to the United States and Britain and our interests lie in tightening our ties with them."

In Jerusalem, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin welcomed Saud's remark, saying: "This is the most interesting statement heard recently."

"It is a gesture both to the US and to us. There is no doubt that part of the peace process stems from the recognition that the US is the only world power," he added.

Wanted killers inducted into PA security services

JON IMMANUEL

A VIDEOTAPE of a graduation ceremony for Palestinian security service trainees in Jericho, showing them marching with their weapons and shouting "Haifa," and "Ashdod," has sparked angry responses from both the government and the opposition.

According to security sources, the film shows that course graduates included Palestinians wanted by Israel for the murder of collaborators. At least one, Jawad Shahawan, has been identified from a videotape as a former prisoner convicted of killing five Palestinians.

Officials noted that drafting anyone into the Palestinian security forces who has not been approved by Israel is a clear violation of the PLO-Israel agreements.

At the ceremony, Maj. Abu Fahed, commander of the training course, read a poem condemning the "Zionist invaders" and exhorting the people to bring "the armed struggle to Haifa, Jerusalem and Beit She'an."

Col. Jibril Rajoub, Jericho Preventive Security chief, denied anybody said anything of the sort. Yet the ceremony was held in full view of the Israeli and foreign media.

An Israel Radio van was parked in the grounds and correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem sat in the grandstand near Rajoub on Tuesday recording the proceedings. Foreign journalists videotaped the ceremony.

"It is a big lie. It is not true," I did not hear such slogans," Rajoub told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Rajoub denied there were any former prisoners convicted of murder among the course graduates shown jumping fully armed over burning tires.

"They are all members of Fatah. Maybe they were in prison. I was in prison. But I do not think any of them killed anybody," Rajoub said.

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer, M who helped draft the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo Agreement, said there had been a clear violation of the accords, as no policeman may be appointed without Israel's permission and convicted killers are unacceptable.

"We will review the film in order to identify anyone on the wanted list. However, there is nothing surprising in it. Jibril Rajoub behaves like a gangster from Chicago in the movies. He threatens, blackmails and runs a brutal security apparatus," an army source said last night.

Army sources said last night that Rajoub's activities have been monitored for several months.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said comments made by the commander of the course constituted "incitement to violence and a very gross violation of the agreements."

"All such matters must be dealt with immediately and we have, as a result of this [i.e. Oslo] agreement, the mechanism to deal with violations....I hope such things will not be said because they are very grave," Beilin said.

The ceremony incident was compounded by the capture of Nasser Abu Khmeid, a prisoner released to the custody of the Palestinian Authority four months ago.

According to the conditions of his release, Abu Khmeid was not permitted to leave Jericho because he was convicted of killing nine Palestinians. He was found at his

parents' home in the Amari refugee camp near Ramallah three weeks ago, carrying a Kalashnikov.

His parents said he was a Preventive Security agent, and that he received the rifle and left Jericho with Rajoub's knowledge.

Rajoub told the *Post*: "This guy has no connection with the Preventive Security. He went to Ramallah on his own initiative. He was sent neither by me nor by anyone else. If he was with a rifle, it means he should be tried."

Islamic Jihad member: 50 of us ready for suicide attacks

THE Islamic Jihad has recruited more than 50 volunteers to carry out suicide attacks "in any place in which there are Jews," a member of the group said yesterday.

The group which calls itself the "body bag gang," said the Islamic Jihad member, who spoke to the Second Channel in the Gaza Strip.

He wore a white satin robe and hood, and was flanked by three others dressed the same way.

"There is a group of more than 50 men who have sworn to fight, even at the price of their lives," he said. "Every school or hospital inside Israel, any place in which there are Jews, is a target for a suicide action." (AP)

Rajoub said that if Abu Khmeid returned to Jericho he would be put on trial, "not for this reason but because he has committed many other mistakes, like causing quarrels among people in Ramallah," he said.

Knesset Interior Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to demand the immediate handover of wanted men who graduated from the security service course. Matza said the DOP had turned Jericho into a sanctuary for murderers.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal plans to recommend to Rabin that IDF troops be ordered to arrest wanted men serving in the Palestinian security service so they can stand trial for murder.

"The government must do two things in this regard," said Shahal. "As regards those graduates of the course who are wanted for attacks, manslaughter and murder of collaborators, I intend to recommend to the prime minister that if our forces meet up with any such person, according to the agreement they should be brought to trial, without any tricks."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said: "Recruiting undesirable and wanted individuals into the Palestinian security service is a very serious mistake on the part of the Palestinian Authority."

Regarding the speech by Fahed, Sarid said, "The agreement is based on good faith and almost every day we hear provocations which hurt this faith."

Palestinians said that such expressions were a habit, from the days when Palestinian aggression was aimed at Israel, while new slogans have not yet been invented.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who at "independence day" celebrations Tuesday described Israel as "the enemy" and corrected himself, yesterday made similar remarks without mentioning "the enemy."

Afon Pinkas, Dan Izenberg and Irim contributed to this report.

Shaath: PA won't become Israeli tool against radicals

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Palestinian Authority will not become an Israeli tool against radical Islamic groups in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath said yesterday.

Shaath, in charge of planning in the Palestinian Authority, also said Israeli respect for the peace agreement was the best protection against violent attacks by groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

"Israel must understand we will not become its prison guard and we will not fulfil the Israeli wish of having a civil war among Palestinians,"

Shaath said at the end of a visit to Cairo during which he met several Egyptian ministers to discuss cooperation and appeal for Cairo's support in the peace process.

"We respect our agreement with Israel from a security standpoint and we respect that we shall never carry out any violent acts against Israel as long as we're negotiating and we are truly working hard to prevent anyone else from doing so."

"But we will not become a tool in Israel's hands with which it can hit the Islamic opposition and Israel understands this," he added.



B'tselem: Interrogators routinely torture prisoners

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

THE B'tselem human rights group yesterday argued that General Security Service interrogators must not be allowed to use more force to combat growing terror attacks, since torture is already routinely employed during such questioning.

The ministers' committee on GSS matters met two weeks ago to broaden the scope of the 1987 Landau Commission recommendations, which permitted the use of "moderate physical force" in interrogating suspects who may know about planned terror attacks.

But at a press conference, B'tselem said additional measures are unnecessary because "torture was already routinely employed prior to the recently expanded license granted to GSS interrogators."

Yizhar Be'er, the director of B'tselem, acknowledged that there are special situations when

interrogators are racing against a deadline to prevent murder, as in the kidnapping of Sgt. Nahshon Wachsmann last month. "In extraordinary circumstances the legal system has the means to deal with the situation," he said.

However, he said, "The government is seeking a legal umbrella which will allow the interrogator to use his own judgment when applying torture. This is extraordinarily dangerous."

The Landau Commission had said that "pressure must not attain the degree of physical torture or brutality or cause severe harm to [the prisoner's] dignity that deprives him of his humanity. But application of the commission's recommendations have resulted in the opposite of its intentions," B'tselem wrote, in a report presented at the press conference.

The report was based on interviews with nine prisoners and several GSS agents, including seven recently released prisoners who were interrogated but never charged. They show that the interrogators try to wear down prisoners by using insults, threats, and sleep and food deprivation.

Common punishments include putting sacks over prisoners' heads, tying them up in painful positions, giving severe blows, forcing them to exercise, and exposing them to extreme cold and heat, B'tselem charged.

"The repeated claim that pressure was used...to prevent murderous attacks is a mere pretext" in the nine cases examined in the report, B'tselem said.

The army yesterday said that interrogations conducted in IDF installations by army interrogators abide by strict and meticu-

lous rules and regulations and comply with legal restrictions which forbid violence.

It is absolutely prohibited to use violence, exert physical pressure, threaten with the use of violence, mistreat and humiliate prisoners, the IDF spokesman said in a statement last night.

Moreover, the army stressed, a medic examines every prisoner before he is detained and interrogated to determine whether his condition may deteriorate as a result of interrogation or prolonged detention.

Consulting committees headed by a military judge conduct periodic supervision of army interrogation installations and relay their findings to senior officers.

The statement added that the army fully endorsed and implemented the recommendations of the Vardi Commission, established in 1990 to examine interrogation methods and processes.

Wachsmann's father says testimony of Hamas man raises questions

MEDIA reports indicating that Nahshon Wachsmann's kidnappers would have kept him alive for 10 days while negotiating for prisoner releases may mean "that there are a lot of questions to ask," his father, Yehuda Wachsmann, said yesterday.

He was responding to testimony from Jihad Yaghmour, 27, of eastern Jerusalem, an accomplice of Wachsmann's three kidnappers, that was published in *Yedioth Aharonot* and *Ma'ariv* yesterday.

Yaghmour was arrested before the October 14 attempt by the IDF to free Wachsmann. According to the reports, the information he provided was crucial to the operation. The three kidnappers were killed in the raid.

The transcript was released after state prosecutors used it Tuesday to fight a High Court appeal against an army order to seal the homes of the kidnappers' families.

The Justice Ministry confirmed that the transcript published in the newspapers was correct.

Yaghmour reportedly said that the kidnappers, whom he allegedly helped by renting a van for the

October 9 abduction, "told me that they had intended to drag out the negotiations for 10 days. If their conditions were met, they would release the soldier."

"Their plan was for me to take the soldier to a central road and then contact police and tell them where to find him," once prisoners were freed, he added.

The Hamas kidnappers had demanded the release of dozens of activists and key movement leaders, including its founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who is serving a life sentence for ordering Arab collaborators killed.

Yehuda Wachsmann told Army Radio that what Yaghmour is quoted as saying, "definitely means they wanted to negotiate. And if this was known before the action, that they wanted to drag the negotiations for 10 days, there are a lot of questions to ask."

He later told him he was glad to read that according to Yaghmour, his son had not been tortured before the raid. He had asked the army to receive a copy of Yaghmour's full testimony, but stressed that he did not want to criticize the army. AP

Suspects in murders of two soldiers go on trial

ALON PINKAS

THE trial of two Hamas members suspected of murdering IDF soldiers Shahar Simani and Arye Zvi Frankenthal began yesterday in Lod Military Court.

Ayman Abu-Hallil, 22, has been charged with the killing of both soldiers, while Itam Kadmanni, 19, has been indicted for being an accomplice in the Frankenthal killing and for involvement in a shooting incident near the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem.

The two, both Jerusalem residents, are represented by Leah Tzemel, who yesterday decided not to issue pleas on behalf of her clients.

The two are also charged with planning further activities, including the planned murder of Bank Hapoalim guards in east Jerusalem.

Simani was kidnapped while hitchhiking last April near Beit Hanina. When Simani tried to get away and struggled with his captors, Abu-Hallil allegedly shot him in the head and stabbed him to death.

In July, Frankenthal was waiting for a ride to Jerusalem on a road outside the Gaza Strip. When a car approached, Frankenthal refused to get in and was then kidnapped. He was later found shot and stabbed to death.

Palestinian police in camouflage gear climb over a tall barricade during their induction ceremony in Jericho. (Reuters)

Palestinian Authority to be allowed to give import permits

JOSE ROSENFIELD

THE Israeli-Palestinian Joint Economic Committee yesterday agreed on procedures that will enable the Palestinian Authority to issue import permits, including for car imports to Gaza and Jericho, the Treasury reported.

The joint committee, headed by Treasury budget director David Brodet and Palestinian Authority Ministry of Trade and Economic Development director-general Amin Hadad, met yesterday to discuss issues that have arisen in the process of implementing the economic accord between the two sides.

In addition to the import permits, the sides reviewed outstanding matters in the areas of agricul-

ture, health, income taxes and Value Added Taxes.

They decided to establish an agriculture subcommittee that will clarify Palestinian import policy. The subcommittee is expected to report on its work within three weeks. Moreover, in two to three weeks, there will be a general discussion on agricultural trade and vegetation protection rules.

The sides agreed that the Palestinians will be entitled to issue import licenses for medicines that are included in Israel's authorized list. In case the Palestinians want to import medicines not included in the list, the health subcommittee will review the request.

Also, Israel agreed to link the West Bank to its tax computer data service when the Palestinians assume responsibility for collecting income taxes there. Israel also offered to reestablish the link with Gaza, which was cut in June.

On Sunday, the sides will review all VAT receipts held by the Palestinians and pay refunds on those transactions that are not contested such as payments for electricity, telephone, cement, steel, gasoline, meat, cigarettes, electronics and purchases by the authority. Both sides will also present business VAT receipts to each other to verify the existence of the transactions behind VAT refund requests.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The closing session of the Weizmann Institute's Board of Governors meetings took place yesterday. A ceremony, marking the establishment of the Nella and Ben-Zvi Center for Neuroscience, and to acknowledge the generous contribution made to support brain research at the Weizmann Institute, made by the late Yitzhak Lerner, was also held yesterday. There was a festive dinner and gala program in the evening, sponsored by the Israel Friends of the Weizmann Institute. The first grant by the Elmer Family Biomedical Research Foundation at the Weizmann Institute was yesterday presented to Prof. Shmuel Shaltiel.

ITV reporter denies lying to Islamic Jihad leader

LIAT COLLINS

ISRAELI Television reporter Linda Scherzer yesterday denied lying to the Islamic Jihad leadership, which issued a leaflet Monday saying the "TV of the enemy had entrapped" their secretary-general Fathi Shikaki into giving a phone interview to her from Damascus.

Scherzer, a former CNN reporter, had interviewed Shikaki twice before in Damascus. Both times she was working as freelancer although the interviews were later screened on Israeli stations. She says that at the beginning of the

week she called Shikaki in Damascus from a phone in Israeli Television House in Jerusalem.

"He asked me who I was. I told him my name and reminded him that I had interviewed him last May," she said.

He apparently did not directly ask her who she was working for or ask more questions about her identity. The phone interview lasted about 15 minutes and about one minute was broadcast on *Ma'ariv* news on Monday night.

Islamic Jihad this week directed its hostility over the arrests of its members by Palestinian Police away from Yasser Arafat and towards Israeli journalists whom it accuses of waging a campaign against its leaders.

Scherzer refused to discuss any precautions she might take following the Islamic Jihad leaflet message, but said: "I might stay out of Damascus for a little while."

Golan residents seek support in US against pullout

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Residents Committee is trying to enlist the support of Jewish communities in the US for its campaign to keep the region under Israeli sovereignty.

A three-member delegation from the committee is currently in the US and is due to participate in the Council of Jewish Federations annual General Assembly being held in Denver this week.

"The aim is to explain the position to members of the Jewish communities in America and try to get their support, both morally and financially, for our campaign," said committee spokesman Uri Heitner.

"The Jewish communities, especially in America, have a great deal of interest in what is happening in Israel and have an influence on governments here. They also have some influence with US politicians," he said.

Heitner said the delegates from the committee were also visiting communities in New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago, to try to increase support worldwide for the campaign to keep the Golan.

In the meantime, more than 200 immigrants, mainly from the former Soviet Union, have signed a petition calling on Rabin "not to take away our homeland."

The immigrants, all residents of Katzrin on the Golan, said in their petition that the region had become their home, where they wanted to live, work, raise their families and serve the country.

The petition, organized by Nahum Barkschi, who has been living in Katzrin for the past five years, also urged Rabin to meet with them so they discuss the situation.

The Association of Friends of Tel Aviv University in Switzerland

mourns with its friend and colleague

Yehiel Ben-Zvi

Vice President of Tel Aviv University, upon the untimely loss of his wife

YARDENA

Dipl. Eng. Erich Marx, President

The Administration and Staff of Assaf Harofeh Medical Center
The Officers and Board of Directors of the International Friends of Assaf Harofeh
and

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Israel Friends of Assaf Harofeh

mourn the passing of

MARTIN LIFLAND

International President of the Friends of Assaf Harofeh Medical Center

A Most Generous and Noble Man

His kindness, his wisdom, his vision and his undaunting efforts on our behalf to create the new Medical Center will be eternalized by the care for the hundreds of thousands of patients who turn to the hospital in time of need.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holon factory destroyed in fire

A Holon house slippers factory caught fire yesterday and was completely destroyed. Firefighters evacuated all of the building's workers, 34 of whom suffered light injuries from smoke inhalation. The fire broke out in the second floor of the three-story building. Firefighters succeeded in preventing the fire from reaching flammable and dangerous materials stored on the third floor. The fire department said the cause of the blaze was still unknown. *Itm*

Givat Shmuel head's car torched

Givat Shmuel local council head Irm Olmert's car was torched Tuesday night, damaging its hood. Olmert's car was parked near his home in the town's Ramat Han neighborhood. Bnei Brak firefighters put out the fire. Items used in setting the car alight were found nearby. *Itm*

Grenades fall off truck on highway

Two crates of army "Splinter-26" hand grenades were found on the Coastal Road yesterday morning. After receiving calls from passing drivers, police immediately shut the road, fearing a possible bomb. Traffic was backed up for several kilometers as a result. Police sappers were rushed in to make sure none of the grenades went off. A short inquiry found that the crates had fallen off the back of an army truck.

Yuval Sela, spokesman for the Haifa police, said: "We have a large army and a small country. This happens all the time." The army, nevertheless, began an investigation.

Hamas activist seriously wounded

Two masked men shot and seriously wounded a Hamas activist in Nabulus yesterday, and his family said the gunmen were undercover Israeli troops. Security sources denied that Israeli forces were involved in the attack. An army spokesman said the shooting was the result of a local conflict. *Reuters*

Shohat meets with striking Druse leaders

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met yesterday afternoon with representatives of the Druse local councils who have been on strike opposite the Prime Minister's Office for the past five days to protest the lack of funding for their communities. Shohat said that while he recognized their need for increased budgets, he did not think that the government could make up for the decades of neglect of the Druse needs in only a few years. However, he pledged to meet with other ministers in an attempt to find solutions for the Druse communities. *Itm*

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, nine of hearts, ace of diamonds, and nine of clubs.



A Tel Aviv city worker clearing a blocked drain on an access road to the Ayalon Highway yesterday confronts irate van passengers after rains caused flooding on the road.

(Ailon Ron / Israel Sun)

Beilin: Arafat should be invited to Auschwitz

DAN IZENBERG

IT is in Israel's interest for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to come to Auschwitz for the 50th anniversary of the death camp's liberation so the Arab world will learn about the Holocaust which it prefers to deny, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday.

Beilin, replying to a parliamentary query by Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani, said Israel had not been asked by the Polish government whether or not to invite Arafat. He added, however, that "it would be a mistake on our part to tell Poland that Arafat should not be there."

Beilin said Poland had considered inviting Arafat not as a head of state but as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Israel opposes any hints at Palestinian statehood and the Foreign Ministry has ordered its ambassadors in 80 countries which recognized the Palestinian "state" not to have any contact with the PLO ambassadors there, he continued.

Beilin added, however, that the Jewish people were confronting a worldwide campaign of Holocaust denial. This included the Arab world which had traditionally refused to acknowledge the Holocaust, as witnessed by the refusal of all the Arab countries, includ-

ing Egypt, to screen *Schindler's List*.

"Recognition of the fact of the Holocaust would be an indirect admission of Israel's right to exist," Beilin explained.

Likud MK Dov Shilansky retorted: "Arafat will go to Auschwitz to learn from his teacher, Hitler, how to destroy us."

Batsheva Tsor adds: The organization of "Mengele Twins," survivors of the deadly tests run on twin children in Auschwitz, have expressed their opposition to a visit by Arafat to the death camp.

At an emergency meeting in Tel Aviv of almost all the survivors living in Israel, the twins announced their intention of attending the ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. But they also expressed their outrage at the invitation to Arafat reportedly extended by Polish Premier Lech Walensa.

"That man and the organization he heads have no place at such a ceremony. Even in the cold and calculating world of public relations and politics, there are certain lines that cannot be crossed," said Menashe Lorenzi, who heads the association.

Two Shafat men found dead from apparent overdose

The decomposing bodies of two brothers from the Shafat refugee camp who apparently died from a drug overdose were found yesterday in an abandoned home near the camp. Jerusalem Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the bodies were discovered by passersby. The bodies were taken to the forensic lab at Abu Kabir for an autopsy.

SECULAR coalition and opposition MKs joined forces against the government and religious MKs to approve in preliminary reading a bill aimed at keeping Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street open on Shabbat.

The bill, initiated by MK Emanuel Zissman (Labor), would prevent local authorities from closing arteries without permission from the Knesset Interior Committee. According to current law, the local council may close streets in conjunction with the police.

Recently, Eliezer Strum, head of a special panel appointed by the

'Jerusalem city workers keep it all in the family'

NEARLY 28 percent of Jerusalem municipal employees are related to other city employees, and more than half of those hired in the past three years have lied about having relatives working for the city, according to the city comptroller's report, released yesterday.

The comptroller, retired judge Uzi Sivan, noted that, except in specific cases, the hiring of someone related to another city employee requires a special permit from the city's director of human resources.

The comptroller specifically recommended that his findings on the division that builds religious buildings be referred to the police.

He noted that the director of this division had employed his daughter for four years - at an average salary of NIS 7,600 a month - to conduct research on the need for synagogues in

various city neighborhoods. The director did not tell anyone he was hiring his daughter, and he determined her salary and working conditions.

The comptroller also found that decisions regarding funding the construction of religious institutions were not made according to any objective criteria.

In most cases, Sivan said, "the setting of priorities was linked to a personal relationship with someone in the division, or to agreements or compromises made in an attempt to assure a 'balance' between the various religious streams."

The city's control committee, which reviewed the comptroller's findings, said in its response that, while the comptroller's data on the hiring of relatives may be technically correct, a large part of the those who are relatives are employed at

very low-level jobs, like cleaning and maintenance.

The comptroller also criticized Mayor Ehud Olmert for ordering city workers not to show the comptroller various documents relating to a loan guarantee the city had given a teachers' institute. Sivan noted that the order was illegal, and Olmert rescinded the order even after this was pointed out to him.

In response, Olmert noted that he had, on the advice of the city's legal adviser, turned over the documents in question to Sivan's office, but that Sivan never mentioned that in his report. "This is evidence of his lack of trustworthiness, but this is nothing new," Olmert said.

Sivan also complained in the report that the budget for his office had been cut by 28% in real terms since 1990. (Iim)

MKs join ranks to keep Bar-Ilan Street open on Shabbat

DAN IZENBERG

Jerusalem Municipality to find a solution to the controversy over Bar-Ilan Street, suggested closing it during Shabbat prayer services.

Although Zissman proposed the legislation before Strum's announcement, he made it clear that his bill would prevent the closure of the road, which skirts haredi neighborhoods on either side in linking the main entrance to Jerusalem with secular neighborhoods.

"I declare that I, together with other MKs and residents of the

city, will under no circumstances, even if we have to bring out masses of people to demonstrate, allow the city to be shut down and harm the fragile and delicate fabric of life in Jerusalem," he said.

Zissman added that the recommendation of the committee as presented by Strum "ignores the dangerous dynamics of such pronouncements. Isn't it clear that such a decision will deal a fatal blow to the Bar-Ilan thoroughfare and lead to its eventual closure?"

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar argued that there was no point in transferring the issue of street closures for political reasons from the municipality to the Knesset. However, a senior coalition source said the haredi parties had put massive pressure on the government to oppose the legislation.

Supporters of Zissman's bill included Yehoshua Matza and Dan Tichon (Likud) and Esther Salmon-vitz (Yi'ud). Rafi Edri (Labor) joined Kessar and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat in voting with the haredim.

Record number of Israelis granted Canadian citizenship on political asylum grounds

DAN IZENBERG

CANADA has granted citizenship on the basis of political asylum to almost as many Israelis in the past half year as it has in the previous four years, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told the Knesset yesterday.

He said Israeli representatives raise the issue with Canadian authorities almost every day, but added that he was pessimistic about a change in policy because the appeals are heard by a non-governmental public committee.

In response to a parliamentary query by Likud MK David Mena, Beilin said that between January and June of this year, 268 immigrants originally hailing from the

former Soviet Union had been granted Canadian citizenship after claiming they had suffered political discrimination in Israel.

This figure compares with a total of 297 requests granted in the past four years.

There has also been a sharp increase in the proportion of requests granted. The public committee granted almost 50 percent of the requests in the first half of 1994, compared with just over 10 percent in the previous four years.

Beilin added that the policy of the committee was insulting to Israel but it should be kept in mind that it also granted citizenship to alleged political refugees from the US.

Masorti movement asks Rabin not to sign regulations that could endanger ministry funding

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Masorti movement yesterday appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who holds the Religious Affairs portfolio, not to sign a set of regulations which the movement fears are intended to deprive it of ministry funding.

The subsidies, which are to go to the Masorti (Conservative) and Reform movements in accord with a ruling of the High Court of Justice last year, were to be accorded only under paragraph *het* - lifting supplementary religious education - of the criteria for ministry funding of public institutions.

However, the ministry recently established another category, *het-one*, which included most of

the activities for which the non-Orthodox movements had sought subsidies.

In a letter to Rabin, attorney Renato Yarach, representing the Masorti movement, said that the movement feared that the establishment of the new paragraph was intended as a ruse to use a technicality to evade an agreement between the ministry and the movement which was reached under the aegis of the High Court.

"I have no doubt that if we again go to the High Court of Justice we will again win, but we would like to avoid the delay and irritation this involves," said Rabbi Ehud Bandel, spokesman for Israel's Masorti Movement.

Thief steals Yad Sarah's van for disabled

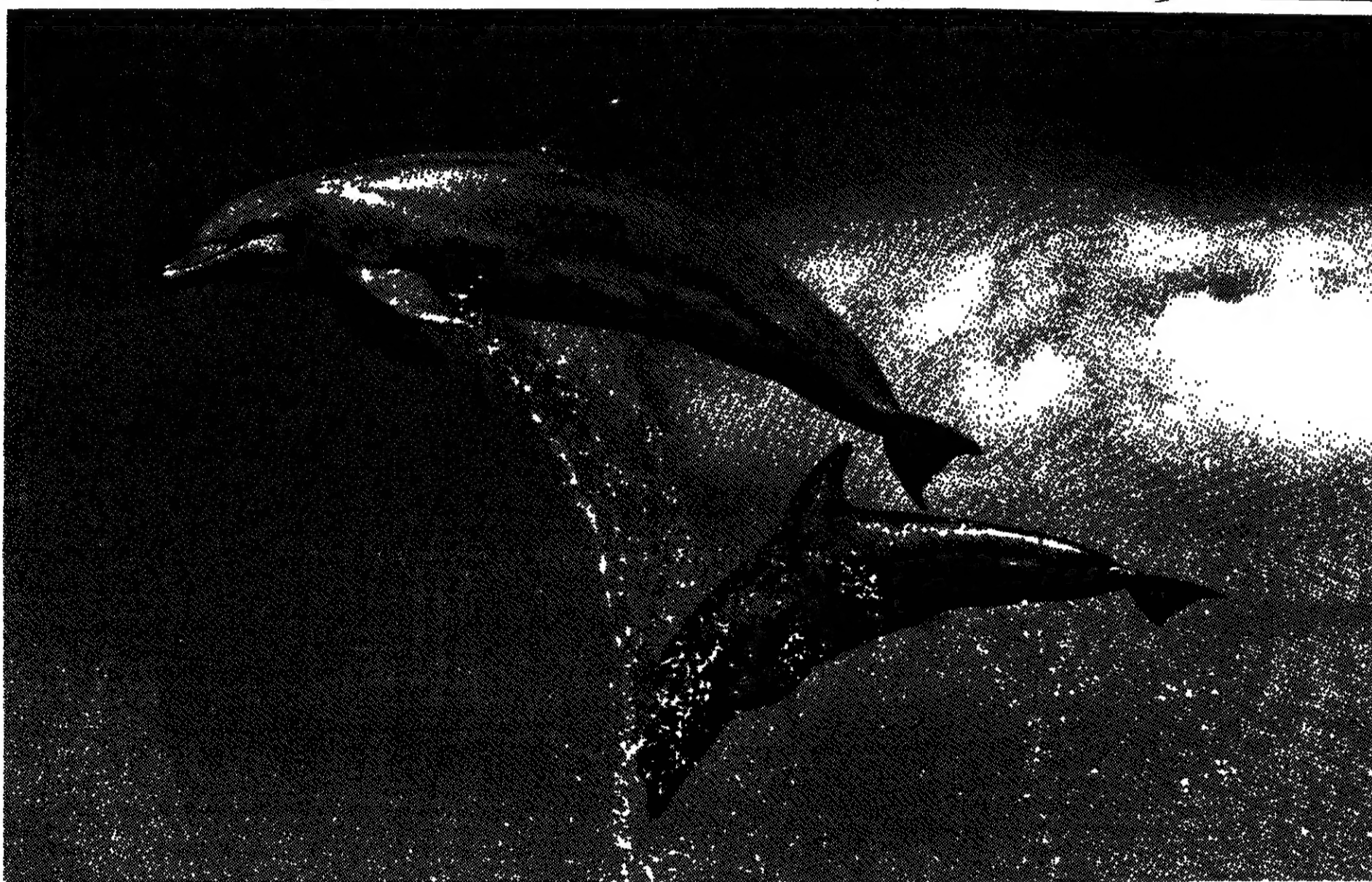
JUDY SIEGEL

A THIEF has stolen one of Yad Sarah's Nechoni vans for transporting the disabled.

The voluntary organization said the van, stolen Tuesday night from a parking place on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan, had a special lift for raising wheelchairs and other equipment worth NIS 180,000.

The van, license plate 20-640-08, has been used to transport dozens of disabled people to hospitals, clinics, family celebrations and other locations every day. Its absence has caused great suffering for many of the individuals Yad Sarah helps, the organization said yesterday. Anyone who sees the van is asked to call the police or Yad Sarah.

Yad Sarah asks the public to volunteer and transport the disabled in their own vehicles to dialysis in hospitals and physiotherapy and dental treatment in clinics. Volunteers may call Yad Sarah at 02-244242.



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Bosnian gov't army said stymied

SARAJEVO (AP) - UN officials said yesterday that government forces appeared to be bogging down in their attempt to stretch Bosnian Serb combat lines before winter sets in.

Fighting continued in the Bihac region of northwest Bosnia, where Serbs have retaken territory captured by government soldiers in recent weeks.

While front lines appeared to have changed little, the United Nations reported a new element: Fifteen to 20 truckloads of rebel Muslims crossed into northwestern Bosnia from Croatia, likely as backup for the Serb fighters.

Government soldiers took control of the Bihac pocket after toppling rebel Muslim leader Filaret Abdic in August, sending his supporters fleeing into Serb-held parts of Croatia. Abdic has Bosnian Serb support.

UN spokesman Lt. Col. Tim Spicer in Sarajevo said government attacks that began late last month may have run their course for the time being.

Plans that are not well-coordinated may face a shortage of ammunition and other supplies, he said. "What we are seeing now is a general slowing of military activity," Spicer said.

Cold and snow are likely to limit military movements during winter, which already is felt in parts of Bosnia. Government soldiers apparently have been trying to capture positions they can hold throughout winter and use as a springboard for attacks in the spring.

They captured hundreds of square kilometers of territory in northwest Bosnia, and in a coordinated attack with Croat allies, took the Serb-held town of Kupres about 100 kilometers northwest of Sarajevo in central Bosnia.

Fighting is continuing north of Kupres, and in northeast Bosnia where a platoon of 30-40 Bosnian Serbs apparently have been trapped by government soldiers. Battles also were reported around an important road to the heart of government-held territory in north-central Bosnia.

While government soldiers still are trying to make gains in those areas, they have been unable to hold what they took in the northwest. Serbs have rolled government forces back toward Bihac, a UN-declared safe area, in a counter-attack.

Fighting continued on the Grabice plateau east of Bihac on Tuesday. Sketchy UN reports described the situation as fluid.

The Bihac pocket, in the far northwest corner of Bosnia, has been totally surrounded throughout the 31-month war by Serb rebels in Bosnia and in neighboring Croatia.

NATO, which could be called in to launch airstrikes, has been under pressure to respond to the fighting in the Bihac pocket. NATO has struck Bosnian Serb targets five times because of violations involving UN-declared "safe areas" or attacks on UN personnel.



A Jakarta police officer directs traffic on a street near the Indonesian presidential palace, under billboard-sized posters of US President Bill Clinton, his wife Hillary, Indonesian President Suharto and his wife.

US signs deals, presses rights with Indonesia

BRIAN BAIN
JAKARTA

INDONESIA, host of the landmark Bogor trade summit, signed business deals worth more than \$40 billion with the United States yesterday even as President Bill Clinton warned host President Suharto over human rights.

Suharto was basking in the afterglow of the Asia-Pacific summit - seen as a crowning achievement of his 27 years in power - when Clinton cautioned that Indonesia's rights record could be a limiting factor in ties with the United States.

Clinton, on a one-day state visit after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit set free trade in the region by 2020 as its goal, raised the rights issue "in firm and forceful terms," he also made it clear that human rights could be a limiting factor in relations.

That report from Secretary of State

Warren Christopher on the Clinton-Suharto talks did not affect the clinching elsewhere in Jakarta of 17 deals totalling more than \$40 billion between corporate America and booming Indonesia.

The top deal by far was the sealing of a natural gas project between Esso Indonesia, local arm of US oil giant Exxon Corp, and Indonesia's state-run oil company.

Human rights and commerce have fought for centre stage since last Saturday when, as APEC officials finalised plans for the Bogor summit, a band of 29 East Timorese dissidents invaded US embassy grounds demanding Clinton's help in securing the release of their guerrilla leader here.

They remained camped out in a car park yesterday, exhausted but defiantly refusing to budge.

The Timorese students told reporters they wanted asylum in Portugal, which ruled East Timor until 1975.

Portugal has said it is willing to accept the youths.

Suharto, a retired army general who has ruled Indonesia with an iron grip, was elated after the APEC summit agreed to create the world's biggest trade area over the next quarter-century.

The 18 APEC members said their economies - responsible for half the globe's commerce - would show the world the way to a free-trade era.

"Our goal is an ambitious one. But

we are determined to demonstrate APEC's leadership in fostering further global trade and investment liberalisation," the Bogor Declaration said.

Most leaders were ebullient, calling the declaration a huge, trend-setting triumph.

But Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad warned that in all likelihood a big gap would remain between rich and poorer countries in the region by 2020.

"It's like asking an express train to arrive at the station together with a freight train that travels at 10 miles an hour," he said.

The Bogor Declaration calls for advanced countries to achieve trade liberalization no later than 2010 and the developing countries no later than 2020.

(Reuters)

Russians foresee worse ties with US

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Senior experts at Russia's influential USA-Canada Institute yesterday said relations between Moscow and Washington could well deteriorate after a sweeping Republican victory in mid-term elections.

"There is a real threat that US-Russian ties will worsen," institute head Georgy Arbatov told a news conference.

In late September Russian leader

Boris Yeltsin held a summit with President Bill Clinton in Washington and declared relations between the two superpowers had never been smoother.

But Moscow now worries that the Republican Party's crushing electoral gains earlier this month, which gave it control over both houses of Congress, might force Washington to take a much firmer line with Russia.

"The people now in charge (in Congress) are known to me as instinctive conservatives, opponents of the former Soviet Union, people against disarmament and détente," said Arbatov, once the foreign policy adviser to several Soviet Communist Party chiefs.

This posed an especially dangerous risk because Russian ultra-nationalists had gained an unexpectedly large number of seats in the State Duma lower house of parliament in elections last December.

"Congress could become more aggressive, and you know what our Duma is like. We could have a dialogue between extremists," he said.

Irish PM fights for survival

DUBLIN (AP) - Fighting for the life of his government on a confidence vote, Prime Minister Albert Reynolds yesterday hinted at new disclosures on "a very serious matter."

But he returned to the house yesterday evening to say no new information had been found.

Debate on a confidence motion was again postponed with the future of Reynolds' 2-year-old government still in the balance.

Reynolds earlier told Parliament, "I haven't got it to lead off this debate." Parliament then adjourned until later in the afternoon.

News reports suggested the government may have some new disclosures regarding the appointment of the former attorney general, Harry Whelehan, as president of the High Court. That is the issue which has fractured the coalition between Reynolds' Fianna Fail party and the Labor Party led by Deputy Prime Minister Dick Spring.

Opposition leaders were furious at rumors that the two parties were nearing a deal to keep the government in office.

"It seems to me we are dealing with one of the most sleazy events in Irish

political history," said Proinsias de Rossa, leader of the small Democratic Left party.

John Bruton, leader of Fine Gael, the main opposition party, said he was in position to lead off the debate because "it is clear that the (prime minister) is going to make quite a bizarre speech."

Reynolds had said the new information would be in response to a query from the Fine Gael party's chief whip, Enda Kenny. Kenny asked Reynolds how he could have assured the House on Tuesday that there had been no outside pressure in handling the case of the Rev. Brendan Smyth, a Catholic priest wanted for child sexual abuse in Northern Ireland.

The government had appeared doomed on Tuesday after Labor lawmakers said they had not been satisfied with Reynolds' explanation of why the attorney general's office had taken no action on the request for seven months.

Reynolds promised a shakeup of the attorney general's office but he said Whelehan was not personally guilty of any wrongdoing. Labor walked out of the Cabinet on Friday when Reynolds forced the appointment through, and Whelehan was sworn in on Tuesday.

Controversy over film claiming Gaddafi was a scapegoat

LIAT COLLINS

A film alleging that Libya leader Muammar Gaddafi was made the scapegoat of the 1988 Lockerbie plane bomb to cover up an Iranian, Lebanese and US drugs deal has been withdrawn from the London Film Festival.

Labor MP Tom Dalyell promised yesterday to show the House of Commons the film, *The Maltese Double Cross*.

It casts doubts on the British and US version of the events leading up to and following the bombing of the Pan Am jumbo over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in which 270 people were killed.

The film festival organizers reportedly pulled the film because "certain statements similar to those made in the film are currently the subject of legal action."

The film, made by Allan Francovich, suggests the bomb was unwittingly carried on board by a Lebanese man living in the US who, it says, was a drugs carrier for the CIA and DEA.

His bag was either switched or tampered with and the bomb placed inside by Lebanese-based terrorists who had allegedly penetrated the DEA.

The drug delivery was part of an attempt to penetrate Middle East drug cartels, according to the film.

It suggests the bombing was financed by Iran and planned by members of Ahmed Jibril's Syrian based PFLC-GC in revenge for the US downing of an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf in 1988.

Although the Western intelligence community also originally pointed a finger at Jibril and Syria it changed its mind in 1991 and began blaming Libya alone and even named two suspected Libyan intelligence agents operating from Malta.

The film implies that Libya was blamed to cover up the drug deal which went wrong and to take the heat off Syria when the US government wanted it to join the coalition forces in the Gulf war and release western hostages being held in Lebanon.

Angola war foes meet secretly

LUSAKA (Reuters) - Representatives of Angola's warring sides met secretly yesterday, hard on the heels of declaring a truce they hope will lead to a permanent halt to one of Africa's longest and bloodiest conflicts.

The talks in Lusaka involved negotiators from both the Luanda government and its UNITA rebel enemies who agreed the truce in the Zambian capital on Tuesday night.

Officials close to the talks said details of the close-door session were not expected to be made public before the weekend.

The truce document calls for a halt in fighting by both parties from midnight last night.

A more comprehensive accord to end nearly 20 years of civil war in Angola is due to be signed in Lusaka on Sunday.

UN mediator Alioune Blondin Beye, upbeat after weeks of frustration over earlier disappointments in the search for peace, said the Angolan people had suffered long enough.

"The Angolan people have suffered for 20 years and the fact that we can say there will be no more killings is very satisfactory," he said in Lusaka after the truce declaration.

It was declared hours after UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos should have signed an accord.

There has been no reaction so far from dos Santos or Savimbi to the

declaration, which suspends fighting in a war which has raged virtually without pause for nearly 20 years.

A UN military official said the truce would be effective throughout Angola and would help the rival negotiators meeting in Zambia to conclude other aspects of a peace deal, including a comprehensive ceasefire.

The signing of a peace accord by Angolan leaders was moved to Sunday after plans for it on Tuesday collapsed when UNITA said it could not talk peace while the government was trying to crush it militarily.

A period of truce is hereby declared to come into effect throughout the territory of Angola 24 hours after the signing of the present agreement," UN military adviser on Angola General Chris Garuba told reporters on Tuesday night.

He said it would remain in force until November 22, after which a permanent ceasefire was expected to be declared.

"During the period of the truce, Angolan armed forces and UNITA military forces shall refrain from carrying out attacks against each other," he said.

Military analysts said the truce merely halted hostilities and details of the ceasefire, including the thorny issue of the security of Savimbi and other UNITA leaders and the planned disarming of guerrillas, had to be sorted out before Sunday.

Saddam defies US criticism over 'palaces'

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - President Saddam Hussein, in defiant remarks published yesterday, said Iraq will carry on building palaces and other projects to infuriate the United States until "it dies of rancour."

The president's comments, carried by the official press, were made during a cabinet meeting yesterday.

They were his harshest criticism of the United States since President Bill Clinton took office in 1993. Baghdad newspapers said Saddam was reacting to US ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright's accusation that he spends lavishly on palaces and presidential retreats while ordinary Iraqis suffer under four-year-old trade sanctions.

Albright produced satellite pictures of what she said were palaces and grand houses being built in Iraq.

A report in the *New York Times* said a flurry of construction was expected to triple the number of residences for Iraq's elite and included

construction of a presidential palace four times the size of the White House.

"We shall go on infuriating them (the United States and other enemies) with additional building, construction, culture and science, day after day... (until) our enemies die of grief, rancour and anguish," Saddam said.

The presidential palace is a great national symbol... other presidential sites are for the state and its official guests."

He said none of the palaces were owned by "Saddam Hussein."

Before embarking on such projects Iraq had repaired and rebuilt war-damaged bridges, power stations, refineries, dams, factories and communication centres, he said.

Iraq is under stiff UN trade sanctions for invading Kuwait in 1990. The embargo forbids trade with Iraq apart from urgent humanitarian supplies. It also blocks its key oil exports.



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Safety firm promises end to slipups

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISELS

THERE'S no place like home — for accidents. Slippery floors and bathtubs are two places where accidents can be prevented.

National Safety Center (Mercat Artzi Lebehu), a private firm despite its official-sounding name, is importing two liquid anti-slip treatments: SlipStop for floors and Standfast for tubs and showers. Both are produced by Slip-Stop of Nottingham, England.

The prime potential customers for SlipStop floor treatment are the managements of public places, in particular the new shopping malls.

"The situation in many malls is catastrophic, because architects are concerned mainly with appearance [rather than safety]," company general manager Ami Molad said at a recent news conference.

The center shares a building with Tel Aviv's new fire station, near the Reading Power Station. Malls and other public places want their floors treated not only to help prevent visitors from falling, but also to protect themselves against lawsuits in the event of falls.

There is, as yet, no national standard here for the allowable degree of slipperiness of floors in shopping malls, although there is for public dining halls and for paved surfaces around swimming pools.

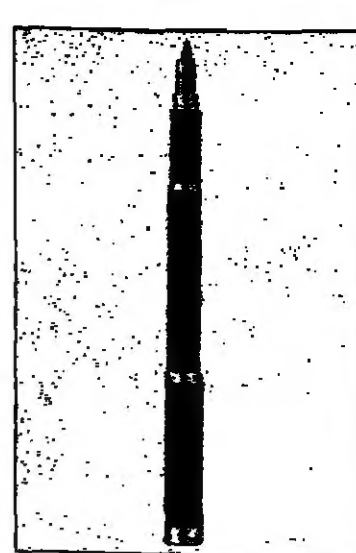
Ordinary terrazzo (mosaic tile) floors in private homes are unlikely to be slippery enough to require SlipStop, its distributor says. But homes with marble or ceramic tile floors may be candidates for treatment.

For NIS 200 plus VAT, the National Safety Center checks home and business floors for slipperiness with a friction-testing device.

The device imitates the action of a shoe on a wet floor and gives a printout of the friction coefficient, an indicator of how slippery a surface is.

The safety limit is 0.5, according to official German and British standards. Anything significantly below this figure is dangerous. Many malls in the country, before treatment, measured 0.2 to 0.3, the center reports.

"We bring the friction coefficient up to 0.6 or 0.7 without harming the glossy appearance of



Nothing better than a berry: O'frutti from France (left) offers juicy, fresh-frozen raspberries, blueberries and 'mixed fruits'; get to the point with Waterman's lacquer fountain pen.

the floor," general manager Molad said.

The professional SlipStop treatment runs NIS 20 to NIS 25 per square meter, including VAT. The non-slipperiness factor is guaranteed for five years — provided the floor is not washed with chlorine bleach (*economika*) or other acids, which neutralize the effect.

Any home, says the safety center, could benefit from the antislip treatment for the enamel surface of bathtubs.

The firm sells the 125-ml. bottle of Standfast liquid for NIS 70, enough for a single tub. It is also intended for the enamel trays of shower stalls.

Standfast for tubs and shower trays is sold for do-it-yourself application, with instructions in Hebrew. Mercat Artzi's spokeswoman Oranit Kedar, who is English speaking, can supply the original English instructions orally or in writing upon request.

Applying Standfast is not difficult, but you must be extremely careful and wear rubber gloves. The warning on the English label says: "Very toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin or if swallowed; causes severe burns."

The label also says: "Only for use by personnel trained and approved by SlipStop." Tubs or shower stalls which have been treated with Standfast cannot be cleaned with chlorine bleach, but

it is permissible to use non-scratch scouring creams.

To order a slipperiness test or the liquid for bathtubs, contact National Safety Center, POB 48441, Tel Aviv 61484, tel. (03) 699-1188, or fax (03) 699-1137.

RABIN USED a simple plastic pen to sign the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles.

Some people might prefer a classic writing implement.

Recently, A & J Eliahu Ltd. of Tel Aviv, the importer of Parker pens, became the local agency for Waterman pens as well. Both brands now belong to the Gillette Corporation, as does PaperMate.

Waterman pens, whether fountain or ballpoint, have a French fashion flair. Although the 110-year-old company was originally American, its center shifted after World War II to France, where all its pens are made.

Watermans will sell here for between NIS 60 and NIS 1,800. The most expensive available here is the new Edson, the only fountain pen in the world guaranteed against leakage at high altitudes. It was specially designed to compensate for changes in pressure.

The Edson has a striking translucent blue body with gold trim. All Waterman pens come with a lifetime guarantee against mechanical failure.

The local service company, El-

gan, will repair any Waterman purchased here or abroad. There is a charge for broken parts, unless there is a defect, in which case the part or the whole pen will be replaced for free.

Pens can be sent in a padded envelope by registered mail to Elgan, 20 Eliahu Eytan Street, New Industrial Zone, Rishon LeZion, tel. (03) 962-5892.

Worldwide, Waterman sells an equal number of fountain pens and ballpoints. The fountain pens are designed to work with ink cartridges, but can be converted to use old-fashioned bottled ink.

The most expensive models, which are not being imported, cost thousands of dollars. Models made especially for women; including the graceful Lady Agathe, come without a pocket clip, but with a matching cover to protect the pen in a handbag.

Watermans will be sold here at stationery shops and office-supply stores.

Several antique Watermans were on display at the Tel Aviv Hilton for the brand's launching party. One was a large, fat pen from the 1920s, known as the Prohibition model because people filled it with liquor instead of ink.

IF THE ink pens above are not rich enough for your blood, you could take a look at Cartier's Pasha Pens (fountain or ballpoint),

which start at NIS 3,240. They are in Art Deco style and are coated with gold and colored lacquers. These pens are found at jewelry stores, including the Padani chain.

MY FAVORITE fruit has always been the red raspberry, plentiful in the Ohio and Indiana summers of my childhood, but virtually unknown here — at least until last week. Fresh frozen raspberries are now available here under France's O'frutti label.

Each berry is a gem, as indeed it should be. The price is an incredible NIS 35.25 per 400-gram box. You get a lot of berries per box, but I found them a bit too sour.

Only a little more reasonable are the mixed berries (labeled "red fruits" in English), NIS 25.99 for 400 grams. Priced at NIS 23.99 are the blueberries and the mixed fruits (pineapple, kiwi, grapes, peaches, apricots and pears).

Labeling is in several languages, including French and English, with Hebrew on the back. The importer is Ben-Yakar.

The frozen berries and fruits can be found at the Super-Sol and Blue Square Co-op chains, and at selected delicatessens. The pricey fruits are recommended for baking and ice-cream making, for use in salads, sauces and meat dishes, or for eating right out of the box with yogurt or sweet cream.



Larger women need not buy tent-shaped clothes anymore for lack of anything better in 'large clothing' stores. Fashions for the slim (top) will now be made in sizes 44 to 60.

Not svelte, but stylish

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE new buzzword in fashion is BIG.

Local fashion designers and manufacturers have suddenly concluded that large women do not necessarily want to walk around in tents and caftans. They want styles similar to those created for their slimmer sisters.

In the US and some parts of Europe, garment-industry mavens long ago realized that large women represented a large market and geared production lines accordingly.

But, though they added variety to large-size lines, what they produced could hardly be called fashion.

In this country, where manufacturers were slower to cater to the them, large women were forced to go to private dressmakers or to buy maternity clothes.

But all that is changing. Large

women no longer feel frustrated when they leaf through *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar* or *Mirabella*. They know that most of the designs featured will be emulated, with variations, in their sizes.

Though not the first to consider the needs of the larger woman, Matim Li ("it suits me") is in the forefront of large-sized fashion.

Matim Li operates 15 stores nationwide, with more on the drawing board, offering the latest fashion trends in all categories of outerwear for women sized 44 to 60.

Notwithstanding the extra fabric needed for large sizes, the prices compare favorably with those of garments in smaller sizes.

Pants are priced at NIS 75 to NIS 108; blouses, NIS 90 to NIS 199; knitwear, NIS 160 to NIS 250; skirts, NIS 100 to NIS 180; and coats from NIS 300.

MOTORING
JOEL GORDIN

KAWASAKI MULE 2510 TRACTOR/ATV. Engine: 617 cc. Horsepower: 24 at 3,200 rpm. Torque: 4.8 at 2,500cc. Gears: Clutchless. Load capacity: 603 kg. Cargo bed (L x w x h): 1175 x 1310 x 250. Maximum speed: 45 kph. Gasoline consumption: 40 km/l. Price: NIS 27,385 (not including VAT).

ON a recent visit to Kibbutz Nahshon I noticed an enterprising member using an ancient Puch moped to haul a homemade wagon in which he had built seats for his three children.

The kibbutz plumber, who has to travel along the narrow footpaths between the houses, had built a toolbox into the sidecar of a 1948 BSA motorcycle. The electrician rode in what is known as a "Rickshaw," a three-wheeled scooter once made by Vespa.

I had come to Nahshon to attend a demonstration of a modern solution for kibbutzniks' transport needs.

It could help all farmers, as well as workers in certain big factories, sport fields and nurseries — anywhere a limited load must be transported on narrow paths and unsurfaced ground.

This workhorse is called a "Mule." Made by the giant Japanese Kawasaki conglomerate, it is 2,845 mm. long and 1,460 mm.

wide, a combination macro-truck, tractor and what is known overseas as an all-terrain-vehicle (ATV), known here as a tractor.

THE MULE seats two people in a comfortable, open compartment. Presumably, the owners will affix canvas or plastic sheets on the overhead safety cage for outdoor work in wet weather.

Behind the seat, there's a 1,310 mm. x 1,175 mm. flatbox, 250 mm. off the ground. The box has a tailgate and the vehicle can be fitted with a hydraulic lifting system. It's like a toy dump truck.

The Mule's operation is comparable to that of a car without a clutch. Press the electric starter (there's a choke for cold mornings), select forward or reverse mode on the gear shift, step on the gas and off you go.

It has all the accessories of a tractor or an advanced four-wheel drive automobile to get you across rough ground.

You can switch from two- to four-wheel-drive and lock the differential to prevent one wheel from slipping. There's a high and low mode to supply the correct torque for any situation.

Sailed through patches of deep mud and slippery sand and the car never felt like it would get stuck. With its 3.4-meter turning circle, it maneuvers with ease in small spaces. The supple springs made for a comfortable ride on all rugged, unsurfaced ground.



The Kawasaki Mule is a workhorse of a vehicle. Part ATV, tractor and truck, it can handle a wide range of terrains.

The Mule is also equipped with low-pressure tires and two differentials, a combination which reduces wheel imprint on grass. The liquid-cooled V-twin four-stroke engine produces a minimum of vibration or noise.

The Mule, however, is more than merely an advanced rickshaw or "gofer" vehicle. It can be fitted with accessories such as a power take-off and hydraulic outlets which allow it to do some of the work of a regular small tractor.

Many private farmers who need a vehicle for rough and unpaved terrain where cars and tractors have their limitations currently

buy one of the large range of tractors on the local market.

THERE IS a valid reason, though, for preferring the Mule to a tractor — safety.

Tractor riding has become a sport in many parts of the world. However, tractors can easily overturn, especially if driven by reckless, unskilled riders.

It does more harm than good to fit roll bars or safety cages to the tractors. Experiments in the US have shown that the high, extra weight upsets the balance and increases the tendency to roll. A driver, apparently, must know

how to jump from the seat at the moment of danger, but this takes practice.

During the past two years, more than 10 people have been killed here while driving tractors, nearly all of them the children of kibbutzniks, moshavniks or private farmers. The temptation to race or do complicated maneuvers on bumpy roads on daddy's tractor was just too great.

The youngsters aren't the only ones at fault. Only recently I saw a middle-aged man racing at about 60 kph through urban streets on a tractor with his young son on the seat behind him. For the record, it's illegal to drive a tractor on the highway and to carry passengers.

The Mule, on the other hand, is a sedate vehicle with a maximum speed of 45 kph. Anybody over the age of 16 who has a valid tractor license may drive it on a highway. A growing number of safety experts say tractors should be used solely for sport, but under strict supervision on suitable tracks.

The Mule is marketed here by Metro, which is also the local dealer for Kawasaki motorcycles and San'yang mopeds and scooters. In addition to the 2510, there is a 286 cc. "smaller sister" called the 500. This does not have four-wheel drive, but the differential may be locked for added traction. The driver may not carry a passenger. It sells for NIS 17,885, not including VAT.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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A taste for travel

ONE of the ironies of American political life is that the more the domestic voters display their lack of interest in foreign affairs, the more involved their president seems to become in international matters. It has become a dilemma Washington appears increasingly unable to come to grips with.

President George Bush had a justified reputation as an international statesman. He reached the heights of domestic poll approval for his handling of the collapse of the communist bloc and for the American war with Saddam Hussein in defense of Kuwait. But the public acclaim proved illusory when he faced Bill Clinton at the ballot box and was voted out of office.

With his vote-catching motto "the economy, stupid," Clinton emerged as a quintessential domestic agenda candidate. With a dynamic and serious grasp of America's social and economic problems, allied to an apparent lack of interest in foreign and military issues, he was predicted to be a man the world outside America would hear little from.

The prediction could not have been more wrong. From his first major appearance abroad, at the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo, Clinton demonstrated that his grasp of world economic issues was just as sharp as at home. From that point, he has won growing respect overseas for his handling of several international crises - Haiti, Iraq and the Middle East process. He was a driving force behind the first meeting of Pacific Rim nations in Seattle last year and again this week he dominated the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting in Jakarta, defying predictions that the Republican mid-term landslide at home would leave him hamstrung.

That landslide demonstrated that the American public is still reluctant to let foreign policy achievements affect its political preferences. In an increasingly interdependent world this may prove an unaffordable luxury. It would be the greatest irony of all if Clinton lost the 1996 presidential race for the same reason as Bush - a public perception that he spends too much time out of the country. Clinton has already travelled overseas more than George Bush did in his first two years. Now he plans a day trip to Budapest in early December for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe - an echo of George Bush's controversial day trip to Colombia for a drug summit.

When Clinton met with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama this week, the two leaders were amused to find their situations reversed since they met last year at a G7 summit in Italy. Clinton joked that he now had to reassure the prime minister of continuity in American foreign policy, just as Murayama had to do for Japan after its government upheaval a year ago.

Clinton has said he cannot understand why Americans are so sour and bitter about their government at a time when the administration is held in high esteem abroad. Most foreign leaders agree with him. In the Middle East, he has managed to win the respect of the Arabs entering the peace process, while retaining Israeli gratitude for his genuine friendship and loyalty. Like many a president before him, Clinton has discovered that foreign affairs is simply much more fun than wrangling with special interest groups and hostile media at home. To be the leader of a democratic and admired superpower is a heady experience in foreign capitals.

Each time there is an American election focused exclusively on domestic issues, the rest of the world wonders if "isolationism" is in the cards. But it is becoming more apparent that no matter how much the American people look inward at their worries on jobs, education, crime and health care, they are going to elect a government that has to look increasingly outside America. Even while the newly-elected Republicans were savoring their winning grasp of what concerns home-town Americans, they were shaping up for tangles with the White House on foreign aid, NATO, the United Nations and Haiti.

Such conflicts contain no great worries for the international community - battles between president and Congress over who runs foreign policy are as old as the United States itself. The partisan squabbles at least ensure a lively debate on the issues and are in fact part of the checks and balances that were meant to shake up the establishment from time to time.

What would be welcome - though there is no simple way to achieve it - would be some indication that better education and more information are making the voters in the great democracies more sophisticated about the importance of foreign policy. Until that trend appears, it will probably remain a fact of life that leaders will just have to grin and bear the domestic indifference to their triumphs in foreign conference centers.



A clutch of 'concepts'

AMERICAN Secretary of State Warren Christopher recently described President Clinton as "young and largely inexperienced in foreign affairs." But Clinton is learning fast.

In October, the American president demonstrated the wisdom of putting his trust in the information of his intelligence chiefs, and Saddam Hussein paid the price.

Early last month, following Saddam's decision to send his elite Republican Guard divisions toward the Kuwait border, Clinton held a fast briefing in the White House. CIA chiefs warned the American president that the Iraqis were not bluffing. They were set to cross the border.

It is public knowledge that US troops and Patriot anti-aircraft missile batteries were sent to warn the Butcher of Baghdad "not to repeat the mistakes of the past." But Clinton reacted with far greater resolve than hitherto suspected, even by his admirers.

The president activated 18 bomber squadrons. From these, four bombers - two B-1s and two B-52s - were selected to participate in a top-secret mission.

The planes, loaded with 250 tons of bombs (a B-1 holds 50 tons, a B-52 80 tons) were sent on a 14-hour flight to the Middle East. The obvious target was Iraqi troops massing on the Kuwaiti border.

But Clinton couldn't waste time consulting Congress, as a president must do when going to war.

Saddam was told to watch a specific point on the Kuwait-Iraq border at a precise moment. This isolated, uninhabited area is used by Kuwaiti pilots for bombing practice.

In an awesome display of US air power, the American bombers dropped their 250-ton payload. While Saddam himself probably didn't hear the huge blast or see the mighty pillar of smoke and dust, he got the message loud and clear.

Clinton may have appeared weak in Bosnia and Somalia, but he was now a man who meant business. He was even faster than his more bellicose predecessor George Bush.

Hours later, Saddam ordered his army to retreat. To save face, the withdrawal was spread out over a week or two.

The Bully of Baghdad has gone so far as to say that he "recognizes Kuwaiti sovereignty," implying that he won't attack his neighbor again. But, as one intelligence source told us: "Clinton is no sucker. His security chiefs and he are in total agreement: Saddam is as trustworthy as a rat snake."

CLINTON HAS also learnt to distrust Syria's Hafez Assad.

He had a preconceived idea that Assad would denounce terrorism publicly after a personal plea from the US president. This was the purpose of Clinton's visit to Damascus three weeks ago - against

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

the advice of his intelligence advisers, who insisted the Syrian leader couldn't be trusted.

At the joint press conference following the meeting between the two presidents, Clinton, according to a psychologist who specializes in body language, "kept glancing at Assad as though convinced he was going to say something of great importance. Clinton's movements, demeanor and facial expressions were as naively clear as a child expecting a promised lollipop."

It's a foolish leader who doesn't listen to what his intelligence advisers say

But there was no lollipop for the American president, and no political triumph of Middle East peace to help beleaguered Democratic candidates facing an electoral battering in Congress and the Senate.

On the plane ride out of Damascus, an enraged Clinton cursed Assad as an impostor and a man who couldn't be trusted to keep his word.

The American president was receiving a rapid education in the value of intelligence advice, and in how to deal with duplicitous Arab dictators.

Advisers aren't always right. But if a national leader cannot trust his advisers, who are professionals, how can he be trusted to make life-and-death decisions?

Unfortunately, Yitzhak Rabin, the man who was expecting so much from Clinton's trip to Damascus, hasn't benefited from the painful lesson meted out to the US president in Damascus.

When the highly respected head of army intelligence research, Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee last week that it was a myth to believe Assad is a man of his word, Rabin humiliated Amidror by publicly rebutting him.

Rabin, it seems, would rather cling to his unshakable "concept" that Assad can be trusted. His knee-jerk reaction, so often repeated by his supporters, was that "Syria has kept its agreement on the Golan after the Yom Kippur War for 20 years."

The premier totally ignored assessments by senior American army men, as well as by his own military top brass, that Assad has kept this agreement only because Israeli cannons on the Golan are pointing straight at Assad's bedroom window in Damascus. They can also watch the Syrian army's every move.

Turkish officials accompanying Prime Minister Tancu Ciller in Jerusalem last week told Rabin in

detail how Assad has broken 18 agreements with Turkey. But Rabin ignored this information, since it didn't jibe with his predetermined "concept."

SURELY RABIN remembers another "concept" which cost the lives of 3,000 soldiers and wounded 5,000 in the Yom Kippur War. At the time, both Golda Meir and minister of defense Moshe Dayan wallowed in the sanctity of the "concept" that Egypt and Syria would not go to war.

Then, Maj.-Gen. Eliahu Zeira, head of military intelligence, saying what his masters wanted to hear, declared at a Tel Aviv press conference that there would be no war. At that very moment, the Egyptians were triumphantly sweeping across the Suez Canal.

And yet, over 400 secret messages from intelligence sources in the field predicted an imminent attack. The CIA also stated quite categorically that Egypt and Syria were on the warpath. But then, as today with Yitzhak Rabin, nothing was more sacred than a "concept."

Like Zeira, our present head of military intelligence, Maj. Uri Saguy, is also telling his master what he wants to hear, inflating the concept even further.

Earlier this year, Rabin chose to ignore top-secret intelligence reports that his agreement with Yasser Arafat would accelerate Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror. He also rejected warnings of an agreement between Arafat and Hamas giving the latter free rein to unleash violence in all areas in the territories and Israel, excluding Gaza and Jericho. Other intelligence files warn that Arafat can only survive by cooperating closely with Hamas.

Rabin mightn't like to be reminded that he, alongside Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, ignored intelligence reports that Iraq was building up its Scud missile batteries and stockpiling biological and chemical weapons to attack Israel.

Nor might he care to remember that one of Israel's greatest triumphs was Menachem Begin's acceptance of intelligence advice to blow up the burgeoning atomic bomb factory in Baghdad in 1981.

The world still shudders to think what would have happened had Saddam Hussein had atomic weapons at his disposal at the time of Operation Desert Storm at the beginning of 1991.

Surely Rabin, with his deep, lifelong military and intelligence experience, with his reputation as a man who has a sharp, analytical brain, ought to be shedding his beloved clutch of "concepts."

Like his younger and less experienced American counterpart, the premier could, perhaps, take the time to listen to his intelligence experts.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Intelligence Service and other books on terrorism and the Middle East.*

Friendly fire

FRANK EIKLOR

IN my fight against antisemitism, I build bridges to all - Catholics, mainline Protestants and Evangelicals. Theologically, I am in the evangelical camp, the tribe presently being whacked around by some American Jewish leaders.

Now I don't march lock-step with any groups, including Christians. But when some of these evangelical leaders, various of whom have stood with me against antisemitism, are accused of being antisemitic, I take a very close look at the accusers.

Is there another reason why, with so many areas of ugly antisemitism being ignored, only the Evangelicals should draw the wrath of some of these Jewish spokespersons?

Why Evangelicals are Israel's unpopular friends

I think there is. And part of the reasoning may have to do with the Middle East peace process.

Only a decade ago, American evangelical Christians were popular with Israel's leaders, who saw them as a bulwark against enemies of the Jewish nation. And though involved heavily in American conservative politics, the Evangelicals didn't draw such intense fire from their more liberal Jewish friends.

WHAT A difference a few years can make. Christian Zionists, always opting for a secure Israel, are now on the outside, as Israel's Labor Party presses all the peace buttons.

Most of America's Jewish leaders have willingly or reluctantly yielded to pressure by the Rabin government to support the peace process. And therein lies the evangelical fly in the peace ointment.

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders are hailing the "benefits of peace," even as Israelis continue to be slaughtered. Evangelical friends ask: "If these are benefits, can Israel endure any more such 'happiness'?"

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders stand in line to shake Yasser Arafat's hand. Many Christians ask: "Why don't you force that hand to cancel the PLO Covenant calling for Israel's destruction?"

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders bask in their perceived reliance on American protestations of goodwill toward Israel. Evangelical friends point out the US's track record of opting for strategic interests and forcing Israel to go it alone.

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders prepare to place more of their tiny land in Arafat's hands, even while he smiles at his "helplessness" to disarm Hamas. Evangelical friends point out such inconsistencies.

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders, along with the Clinton administration, beat a path to Hafez Assad's door, forgetting how the Syrian dictator slaughtered thousands of his own subjects in Hama. Christian evangelicals demand a memory recall.

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders believe that Moslem fundamentalists can be bought with economic advantages. Many Evangelicals point out that Jewish and Gentile secular minds cannot comprehend spiritual warfare, and that the Islamic siege cannot be bought off.

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders, along with the Clinton team, are risking the lives of Americans and Israelis in Haiti to restore democracy. Many Evangelicals ask: Why are the same pressures not exerted to bring down Middle East dictatorships?

● Israeli and American Jewish leaders trumpet a new golden age of economic and political brotherhood in the Middle East. Evangelical friends point out past "deals" with dictators and potentates that always exploded in the Jewish face.

That's why I think there is more to Israeli and American Jewish leaders being soured on Evangelicals than the advertised "common stand" in "circling the wagons against the Christian right."

I think it's because many Evangelicals are warning Israelis against being left at the mercy of a merciless world.

The present Israeli and American Jewish leaderships wish those warnings would stop. They won't. And that's a big part of the reason Evangelicals will have to put up with being unpopular friends of Israeli and American Jewish leaders.

The writer is president of *Shalom International* in Corona, California.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sir, - The human cost of the massacre in the heart of Tel Aviv can never be repaid. The financial cost runs into millions of dollars. It is Israel which has to pay both the human and financial cost of the deed of one terrorist extremist.

When America accidentally shot down an Iranian civilian plane, they paid financial compensation to the victims. Germany paid financial compensation to the victims of the Holocaust. Israel, although not directly responsible for the massacre at Hebron, paid compensation to the victims. Iraq was made to pay compensation for the Gulf war.

Israel must demand immediate financial compensation from those responsible for the attack, from their immediate family and the community which supports them. Responsibility for the attack extends not only to the actual terrorists involved, but to the leaders of Hamas who support them with funds for such attacks. Hamas leaders should be arrested and legal proceedings should be immediately instituted to freeze their bank accounts, confiscate their property and close their businesses as financial compensation for the attack.

Such a step is perfectly legitimate and democratic. It hits directly at the political and military wings of Hamas, by reducing their funds. This in turn will affect the ability of Hamas to mobilize political support and undertake terrorist activities.

Finally, it will discourage the military wing to know that their immediate family and community will be held financially responsible.

W. SINGER

Tel Aviv.

COLLECTIVE GRIEF

Sir, - I refer to Helen Kaye's "I Think of Marina" (October 21), after the horrible bomb blast in Tel Aviv. You are wrong, Helen Kaye, in writing "Where is our decency and our dignity as a people? Someone should have decreed a day of national mourning."

None of us needed such a decree. We all - the entire country - collectively mourned this brutal and terrible thing happening to our people, just as we all mourn the killing and kidnapping of any of our fellow countrymen. These terrible things touch all of us and we collectively grieve. We need no "decree" to make us aware of the awful grief so many families have suffered.

SHULAMITH LIEBMAN

Karmiel.

THE DEATH OF ALMOG KLEIN

Sir, - Who is responsible for the death of Staff Sgt. Almog Klein on October 29 in Dabsha, Lebanon? The mass media, the minister of defense and army generals focused on the dishonor from the Hizbullah success in placing their flag on an outer defensive post. Disciplinary action is being taken against soldiers who did not act according to army expectations. But Almog Klein's death did not take place during the attack by the Hizbullah gunmen. It took place about 40 minutes later.

His death occurred because he was heroically defending a static defensive position which had undergone five hours of bombardment. The real scandal was that uniformed Hizbullah gunmen were able to operate in daylight in South Lebanon without the IDF being able to anticipate their actions or to follow them to their strongholds. There was no effective air action against this enemy unit, or any attempt to send forces to intercept their withdrawal. No action was taken to find their staging grounds and to prevent a similar action.

It is the policy of the Rabin government that is responsible for the death of Staff Sgt. Almog Klein by the acceptance of "casualties for peace." It is obvious that after Operation Accountability, the Israeli government agreed not to enter Lebanese villages to root out the organizational framework of the Hizbullah. So our boys sit in their defensive positions along the Barak Line in Lebanon waiting for the next coordinated attack. Yes, they are allowed to shoot back, but they cannot rely on IDF initiative to seek out the enemy in their bases. The war of attrition is allowed to continue with its daily attacks.

ALBERT L. GOLDBERG

Haifa.

SHAME

Sir, - No public memorial ought to be erected, or permitted to stand, for the perpetrator of the Hebron massacre, a lasting shame to the people of the land of Israel.

STEVE AMDUR

Ha'on.

FAITH IN ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Sir, - With its potential for both tremendous good and evil, the power of money is one of the most riveting themes in Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*.

By financing a Palestinian governmental infrastructure, organizations such as the IMF will help prevent a tremendous evil - the collapse of Palestinian economic autonomy. The alternative is inevitable bloodshed. For a ramshackle economy provides the ideal testing ground for extremist groups in general, and Hamas in particular. Palestinians receiving money from Hamas, for example, must answer questions about their willingness to join Hamas.

Therefore until the Palestinians attain economic as well as political independence, they remain - for better or for worse - Israel's responsibility and that of countries having pledged financial support. Of course the key for international organizations will remain financial accountability for some time to come.

Oskar Schindler had the power to literally "buy" lives. Today, too, the international community has the opportunity to "buy" lives - those of both Palestinians and Israelis. From whom? Hamas and other radical Moslem groups eager to transform Palestinian hopelessness into a pretext for war.

This certainly does not suggest that one can "buy" a Moslem's faith. It does suggest that one can "buy" a Moslem's faith in economic progress vs. faith in Israel's destruction.

P.T. CORWIN

Jerusalem.

INCONVENIENCING TRAVEL

Sir, - Chaim Beckerman ("Price of 'sealing' the city," October 31) bemoans the inconvenience imposed upon the Arabs who cannot go through Jerusalem when the territories are closed.

I wonder if she is aware of the fact that those of us living in Beersheba cannot go directly to Jerusalem as we would come under Arab rock-throwers from Arab villages, Hebron and Bethlehem. Arab hatred and violence force us to go 42 kilometers out of our way to reach Jerusalem.

Beckerman's crocodile tears for the "poor" Arabs is another example of self-hating Jews who deny the truth, that Arabs really do not want to make peace with Israel.

MAJSH RUBIN

Beersheba.

POSTSCRIPTS

ESCALATING ITS campaign to defy the late "Great Leader," Kim Il Sung, North Korea has reported that birds are mourning at his statues.

Swallows flocked to one of the statues, "wintering sadly," the official Korean Central News Agency reported. "Scientists and people said the swallows seem to be expressing condolences on the death of the fatherly leader before flying to the south."

It said people who witnessed the scene said it was a sign that Kim Il Sung "was a legendary great man who descended from the heaven."

Since Kim's death in July, North Korean media has been gradually elevating him to god status. Recently, North Korea reported that

Kim's favorite flower, the magnolia, came into a miraculous late-summer bloom on the two-month anniversary of the Great Leader's passing, making people feel "a greater longing for him."

Between Kim's death and his funeral 12 days later, the North reported that swallows landed before portraits of the Great Leader and appeared to be bowing their heads in grief.

Senior South Korean officials believe North Korea is planning to inter Kim Il Sung in the purported tomb of Tangun, the mythical founder of the Korean race. Although historians say Tangun's story is a typical creation myth and that he never existed as a historical figure, North Korea last year an-

nounced it had found his 4,000-year-old tomb and bones. "Korea has had two Great Leaders," KCNA recently announced, linking Tangun and Kim.

Tangun's myth would have had appeal to Kim Il Sung, who was obviously behind the "discovery" of the tomb.

THE DENVER Intermountain Jewish News publishes a calendar of events for the city. It runs the entire gamut, as you can see from this day's entry:

TISHA B'AV - Fast of the ninth day of Av commemorating mournful events in Jewish history.

TEMPLE MICAH (Reform) - potluck picnic, 10:30 a.m. Herb Kethon

העיתון הירושלמי

Check out teacher who is object of daughter's crush

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, My daughter, who is in high school, is in love with one of her teachers. She speaks of nothing else, and she is distracted when doing work for any other teacher. It takes her ages to decide what to wear to school. I feel she is carrying this thing too far, and that it will have bad consequences. How can I intervene wisely?

Crush Crushed
Somewhere in Israel

Dear CC, It is likely you are carrying your worry too far. Even the most violent crush can turn into indifference when a replacement comes along. Your first concern should be whether this teacher is in any way participating in your daughter's fantasy, either by encouraging her, or, worse, by trying to seduce her.

Talk to the school guidance counselor. Not only should he or she be able to help you think of a way to deal with this delicately, but it's good to have someone at the school aware of problematic teacher-pupil relations. The teacher should be advised on how to behave toward the girls in his class. Your daughter may not be the only pupil of his pining for him.

Dear Ruthie, While playing with my year-old son in the park, I was approached by a scout from a leading ad agency who offered to hire my baby to advertise a new line of infant products.

To make my ego even larger, he took a few pictures on the spot and sent them to me the following day with an offer of a large sum of money — which my husband and I badly need.

The problem is that I have always frowned upon people who exploit their children's talents or looks for financial gain. I am also concerned it will lead to an abnormal childhood for my son. On the other hand, I'm tempted beyond belief. My husband says he will go.

along with whatever I decide. Help!

Camera Cajoled
Tel Aviv

Dear Cajoled, If your real problem has to do with snobbery toward parents who succumb to the temptations of fame and fortune through their children, then go ahead and earn the money you so sorely need.

If you are more concerned about the consequences for your child in the future, give it more serious thought. You'll find it easier to come to a decision if you are honest with yourself about what is troubling you.

Allowing your baby to be photographed does not constitute an automatic leap into the world of Hollywood mothers. Unless you want it to be.

Dear Ruthie, I want my husband to shave off the beard he has had ever since I've known him. I'd like to see what he looks like without it. He doesn't even want to give it a try, though it scratches me when we embrace and little bits of food are always getting stuck to it, which I find irritating. How can I persuade him?

Beard Bored
Ma'aleh Adumim

Dear BB, First, put yourself in his place. If he were to ask you to shave off all your hair, would you comply? If your husband has had a beard ever since you've known him, there's a reason.

Perhaps he's insecure about his face. Maybe he wanted the beard initially to cover blemishes and then grew attached to it. He'll take a razor to his pride and joy only if he gets tired of it, or wants a change. Your best bet, then, is to bring out the adventurer in him, or make him feel so secure that he need not fear taking off his mask for a trial period.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

TWA 'companion ticket' offer heats up air wars

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

COMPETITION for airline passengers continues to heat up. TWA is now offering a free round-trip ticket for passengers' companions to the US. The holder of the extra ticket may either fly with you from Israel, or come from the States and return alone. At the cheapest fare offered with this arrangement, this comes to \$684 per person. To get in on the bargain, you must buy the ticket by December 14 and use it between December 14 and March 31.

KLM IS offering a winter special in Amsterdam with a three-night stay, with breakfast, in some of the city's top hotels for 225 Dutch florins (about \$132) per person, not including airfare.

THE WINTER ski season is on the horizon and Arka has begun publicizing its ski holidays in the French Alps. A round-trip flight and a six-night stay in Tignes, including breakfast and a ski pass, starts at \$890. The company is also offering accommodation in self-catering studio apartments in some ski resorts.

IBERIA HAS announced a contest for children aged four through 15 who are themselves passengers or whose parents fly on the airline at least once before December 31.

The children are to submit a drawing or painting on the theme "VIVA air (the name Iberia gives its planes) and the family." Winners in three age categories will receive a free bicycle and their parents and the travel agent who sold them the ticket will receive free tickets to Spain.

JET LINE is offering three- and seven-night packages to Istanbul. The prices, which include airfare, hotel and breakfast, start at \$320 for three nights and \$375 for seven nights.

SWISSAIR has been declared the best airline for businessmen by the British survey company BMS Total Research. The airline led in seven of nine categories and came in second in the other two. In another survey, by the American magazine *Incisive*, a majority of readers named Swissair as the best international company.

FOR LUNCH, try the crypt, says Britain's Association of Ecclesiastical Caterers, which represents 36 restaurants in churches and cathedrals throughout the United Kingdom. The price of a meal is said to average about £5, and all the restaurants reportedly serve some vegetarian dishes. A guide to the restaurants is available at any one of them.



Genius or shaman? Ruth Brandon's new biography about Harry Houdini reveals him to have been a little of both.

The magician who challenged death

BOOKS

JOHN BANVILLE

THE LIFE AND MANY DEATHS OF HARRY HOUDINI by Ruth Brandon. Random House. 352 pp. \$25.

WHEN I was a child I developed a brief but passionate interest in two shamanic figures, Houdini and Rasputin.

In my mind, they seemed two sides of the same coin, the Mad Monk a dark, primeval figure shambling out of the great Siberian wastes, Houdini the mysteriously cheerful prankster, cousin to Chaplin's malignantly chirpy tramp. I can date this interest from the 1952. That means I was seven, and had probably just come to a realization of the reality of death. And death, of course, minatory and ineluctable, was at the core of the fascination with both Harry Houdini and Grigori Rasputin, not only for me but for many millions of people — including, incidentally, Alexandra, Empress of All the Russias, who was a fan of both performers.

The mage who subjects himself to ritual death only to rise again from the grave is a figure as old as humankind.

He is the sacrificial victim we push ahead of us into the maw of approaching annihilation. Somebody, we say, has got to be able to defeat death on our behalf, if only by trickery. Rasputin had to be poisoned, shot in the skull and back, kicked in the head and then shoved under the ice of the frozen river Neva before he gave up the ghost; and, seeing that he could survive so much, who would say for certain he was really dead?

Houdini, too, late in his career, went under a frozen river but discovered he could save himself by breaching in the shallow air gap

between the ice and the surface of the water.

The Empress Alexandra, were she still living, would have been impressed. When she met Houdini during his tour of Russia in 1903, she refused to believe his tricks were worked by sleight of hand and not magic.

She was not alone in this refusal. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, that exemplary Victorian, would have none of Houdini's sensible denials: "It is said, 'How absurd for Doyle to attribute possible psychic powers to a man who himself denies them!' Is it not perfectly evident that if he did not deny them his occupation would have been gone forever? What would his brother magicians have to say to a man who admitted that half his tricks were done by what they would regard as illicit powers? It would be exit Houdini."

Dear me, how Holmes's lip would have curled!

What the empress and the writer were expressing was the need that millions felt, and will always feel, for evidence that there is something beyond this world with its pains and paltry effects, some occult region where dwell the peaceful dead, and where certain charmed beings may go to learn the arcana of the departed and return with something of their power.

As Ruth Brandon has it in her splendid and immensely intelligent biography, *The Life and Many Deaths of Harry Houdini*, shamans derive from the extremity of their experience a knowledge denied to most other people.

HOUDINI, it must be said, was a

most unlikely figure to fill the role of shaman.

He was born Erich Weiss in 1874, probably in Budapest, though he claimed his place of birth was Appleton, Wisconsin, to which unlikely spot the family had moved to escape the rabid and highly dangerous antisemitism of Hungary. He was one of five boys, the son of Samuel Weiss, a self-styled rabbi, and the formidable Cecilia Steiner, the woman who was probably the one real love of Houdini's life.

Brandon is a shrewd and incisive biographer (probably a better one than Houdini's merits), and the early chapters of her book are superb.

She points out the "parallel between the unpredictable and (to the audience) mysterious world of magic and that of the poor immigrant, set down in a strange country." Where the immigrant came from he understood how things worked, even if they usually worked against him; in the new world there is "a more or less total disorientation: a state in which the immigrant is at the mercy of every shark or petty official who chooses to impose upon him. Luck is the only logic."

The Weiss family, living a hand-to-mouth existence, moved to Milwaukee, where, when Houdini was 12, his father died, having first made young Erich promise to take care of his mother for as long as she lived. The deathbed injunction would be carried out with an enthusiasm, and a success, that would have astonished the father.

The other woman (I choose the term deliberately) in Houdini's life was his wife, Bess, whom he

met when he was 20 and she was 16.

Here is Houdini's account of the wooing: "One day I was hired to give an exhibition at a children's party in Brooklyn. At the close a little girl, about 16, said to me very bashfully, 'I think you are awfully clever,' and then, with a blush, 'I like you.' 'How much do you like me?' I said, 'Enough to marry me?' We had never seen each other before. She nodded. And so, after talking the matter over, we were married."

Theirs was an extremely odd marriage (Brandon speculates that it was unconsummated).

At the very start Houdini hoisted Bess onto a pedestal from which she was not allowed to step down until Houdini's death 32 years later. For all the oddity, however, they were devoted to each other, and Houdini, who found it hard to conceive of the reality of anyone's existence other than his own, does seem genuinely to have loved his wife.

HOUDINI BEGAN his stage career in medicine shows and vaudeville, at the start in partnership with Bess. He worked later, and more naturally, as a soloist. His first specialty was escaping from handcuffs, a trick for which audiences had a surprising appetite.

Later he developed more and more elaborate escape tricks. The world was mesmerized. Soon he was traveling all over America and Europe, earning thousands of dollars a week. His energy was boundless, his will seemingly unbreakable. He was a man obsessed.

His main obsession was death.

As Brandon puts it, "What Houdini was pursuing was proof of his own immortality."

Again and again he put himself in mortal peril, whether strapped into straitjackets and thrown into frozen rivers of locked in a coffin and submerged in a tank of water. More than once he came close to perishing.

"Not that he did not fear death. The opposite was true. He was so haunted by it, the consciousness of it filled his thoughts so entirely, that his life was tolerable only if he could assure himself, time after time, that he could defeat it."

In the end, however, exhausted perhaps by the lifelong struggle to escape what in his heart he most desired, he embraced death, continuing his stage performance for days while suffering from a ruptured appendix. He died of peritonitis in 1926 at the age of 52.

Bess, bereft and helpless without him, sought for years to summon up his spirit, with the help of numerous and mostly fraudulent mediums. This grave, however, remained silent.

As I read Brandon's account of this singular life I kept having a sense of almost-recognition. What was it that was missing from Houdini's life and work? At last it came to me: art.

He had all the characteristics of an artist of genius — obsession, perfectionism, fierce will power, a highly developed self-consciousness, patience, attention to detail, a longing for immortality — yet his mind and deeds were irredeemably banal. But then, banality of spirit is the chief characteristic of the shaman.

Ari is dang
(Los Angeles Times)

The reviewer is the editor of the Irish Literary Times and the Irish, most recently, of Ghosts.

Restorers bring 'most beautiful woman' back to life

TRAVEL

WILLIAM D. MONTALBANO

(before marrying their eldest daughter).

To speed his beloved's journey to eternity, Ramses stocked the tomb with jewels, amulets and funerary statues of black-painted sycamore; they were supposed to spring to life to serve Nefertari in the afterlife. Tomb stockers also thoughtfully left a queenly pair of corded sandals — and the era's best wall paintings.

Grave robbers looted the queen's burial chamber, her treasures and the mummy itself. But in 1904, Nefertari's resting place in the Valley of the Queens near Luxor was discovered for science by an Italian diplomat and a more-than-amateur archaeologist named Ernesto Schiaparelli.

Now, after new scholarship and six years of painstaking restoration, Nefertari and her burial chamber are subjects of a pioneer exhibition that opened in Rome last month, blending artifacts with the theme of conservation and the high-tech wonderland of virtual reality.

The Louvre, the British Museum and the Egyptian Museum in Schiaparelli's native Turin have all contributed to the show.

IN DEATH, Nefertari, who lived one century and one dynasty later than the equally famous Nefertiti, reveals volumes about her life and times.

The paintings are underscored with hieroglyphics. One depicts Nefertari's ritual acceptance by the gods of the afterlife, with one of them greeting her: "When you came to me, I gave you a place in the holy ground. May you appear in the sky like your father, Ra."

There is a more down-to-earth message in the exhibition, though. "This is the first time an exhibition has brought conservation into the life of an exhibition. We want to raise people's consciousness about conservation as an extension of art," said Mahasti Afshar, who assembled the show for the Getty Conservation Institute.

Over time, the humidity introduced by visitors leeches salt from the limestone and damages painted plaster walls.

Photographic studies of Nefertari's tomb show dramatic and accelerating deterioration of the art. Italian specialists did an emergency intervention and then undertook systematic conservation of the tomb.

The result is a work of art that is once again strikingly bold and fresh-looking. But the restorers added not a drop of paint. Nefertari's legacy might have been lost entirely without restoration. But in presenting the results of its rescue, the exhibit also underlines a modern dilemma: can do technology vs. tight resources.

"Nefertari, Light of Egypt" is at the Palazzo Ruspoli, Via del Corso 118, until Feb. 19, 1995. The exhibit is open daily from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and until 10 p.m. on Saturdays. Tickets are about \$6.75. (Los Angeles Times).

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1994

GDP surges 8.1%

Growth expected to abate in fourth quarter

THE Gross Domestic Product jumped 8.1 percent in the third quarter of the year, following a 6.8% drop in the previous quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The GDP measures the total value of goods produced and services provided by the economy.

The business product, which measures private sector activity, shot up 15.8% after falling 10.4% in the second quarter, reflecting increased construction and industrial activity after the easing of the closure of the territories.

Should economic activity remain unchanged in the fourth quarter, the GDP will grow higher than the bureau's estimate of 7% this year.

But based on third quarter figures, the bureau's predictions assume that economic activity will slow down somewhat in the last quarter of the year.

During the first nine months of the year the GDP expanded 7.5% compared with the same period last year.

Private consumption moderated somewhat in the third quarter, falling 2.5%, after surging 21.7% in the first quarter and an addi-

JOSE ROSENFELD

tional 9.7% in the second quarter.

Despite the reduction, private consumption in the past nine months rose 10.5% compared with the same period in 1993.

Per capita private consumption fell 4.6% in the third quarter, while it increased 7.9% during the first three quarters of the year. During that period, consumption of non-durables rose 7.5%.

Spending on food, drink, and tobacco increased 6%, while clothing, footwear, and personal accessory expenditures shot up 23% per capita.

Israeli tourists spent 15% more abroad and an additional 6% for health, education, entertainment, and household help.

Purchases of durable goods jumped 12% per capita in the first three quarters. Purchases of cars rose 9%, while electric appliance purchases shot up 13% per capita.

Fixed capital formation, including housing, equipment, and vehicles, increased 6% in the third quarter and were 12% higher in the first three quarters of the year compared with the same period last year.

Investment in housing shot up 78.2% after falling 21.9% in the second quarter and 17.4% in the first. In the first three quarters, housing investment rose 0.7% over the same period last year.

By contrast, investment on machinery, equipment, vehicles, and non-residential construction fell 10% after rising 15.9% in the previous quarter and 39.3% in the first quarter.

Exports plunged 25.6% in the third quarter following increases of 12.1% in the second quarter and 30.2% in the first quarter. According to economists, the drop is partially explained by the sharp drop in tourism as a consequence of the Hebron massacre.

There is usually a three-month time-lag until an event translates into a drop in tourism, since visitors tend not to cancel tickets they already hold.

Imports, which rose meteorically during the first half of the year, fell 16.8% in the third quarter. Imports increased 33.2% in the first quarter and rose an additional 20.5% in the second quarter.

In the first nine months, imports jumped 13% compared with the same period in 1993.

Tadiran's net profits rise 119.5%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TADIRAN completed the third quarter with a 119.5 percent rise in net profits to \$14.5 million from \$6.6m. during the same period last year.

For the first nine months of the year, net profits fell 23.9% to \$34.3m. from \$45.1m. Earnings per share dropped to \$1.75 from \$2.3.

The growth in third quarter profits was due to unrealized gains reflected in a rise in net financing income to \$7m. from \$2.4m.

Tadiran registered an unrealized gain of \$8.6m. during the

quarter, resulting from the transfer of long-term investments in marketable securities to the company's short-term portfolio and the resultant write-up of the investments to market value.

Sales rose 17.5% to \$205.2m. from \$174.7m., due primarily to a \$23.3m. sales increase in the telecommunications segment and an \$8.3m. rise in sales of the Sincgars project.

Total exports increased 32.5% to \$93.4m. Tadiran's backlog of

confirmed orders rose to \$855m. at the end of September from \$585m. at the end of 1993.

The third quarter results were partially offset by a 17.1% increase in research and development to \$11.2m. from \$9.6m. Selling expenses increased 14.4% to \$17.6m. and general and administrative expenses rose to \$11.1m. from \$6.5m.

Management blamed the decrease in net profit for the nine month period on a change in the

company's product mix and an increase in research and development and selling expenses.

Tadiran managing director Israel Zamir, who took over from Gurion Metzger in October, said the company is currently preparing for a global public offering of its shares in the US and another market, most likely Europe.

The proceeds from the offering are expected to be about \$80-\$90m. In conjunction, Tadiran plans to issue all its ordinary shares for trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Net earnings jump at Mercantile Discount

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MERCANTILE Discount Bank, a subsidiary of Israel Discount Bank, yesterday reported an 81.3 percent jump in third quarter net profits to NIS 12.77 million from NIS 7.05m. in the corresponding period last year.

The company completed the first nine months of the year with a 15.6% drop in net profits to NIS 26.1m. from NIS 30.9m. in the corresponding period last year. Net return on shareholders equity was 9.7%.

The improvement in third quarter earnings was mainly due to a

drop in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 5.5m. from NIS 12.2m.

On the other hand, profits were harmed by a 9% increase in operating and other expenses to NIS 52.6m. from NIS 48.1m. Sales and related expenses increased to NIS 32.5m. from NIS 26.9m.

Teahot, a subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank, yesterday reported an 83.2 percent surge in third quarter net profits to NIS 22.9 mil-

lion from NIS 12.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

General manager Uri Wurzbacher attributed the growth to the rapid increase in its loan portfolio, implementation of efficiency measures, and relative fall in operating costs.

Operating costs rose to NIS 34.8m. from NIS 29.8m. in the third quarter, but management said costs were down in relation to the rise in mortgages granted.

Another major factor for the

rise was an increase in Teahot's earnings from financing operations before provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 58.3m. from NIS 40.4m.

Teahot's net profits increased 31.3% in the first nine months of the year to NIS 69.2m. from NIS 52.7m.

Annualized net return on equity reached 14.6% at the end of September.

At the end of the third quarter, total assets rose 17.4% to NIS 15.05 billion from NIS 13.3b. at the end of 1993.

Shalom: Ban banks from giving advice on stocks

EVELYN GORDON

BANKS should be barred from giving investment advice about stocks, because this would be a severe conflict of interest, the head of the Knesset subcommittee preparing a law to regulate investment counseling recommended yesterday.

Because of the importance of the issue, however, the capital markets subcommittee will leave the decision to the full Finance Committee, subcommittee chairman Silvan Shalom (Likud) said.

Shalom, whose committee is now merging three bills to regulate investment consulting, said that because the banks had significant holdings in many bourse companies, it would constitute a "severe conflict of interest" for them to give advice in this field.

It would also, he said, violate the recommendations of the 1986

Bejaki Commission.

However, Shalom said, he saw no problem with banks giving advice in other fields of investment, such as savings plans or provident funds.

Avi Ben-Bassat, head of the Bank of Israel's research division, took an even stronger line. Banks, he said, should not be involved in any aspect of investment consulting - even savings plans or provident funds.

In contrast, Securities Authority head Arye Minkovitch said he saw no reason to bar the banks from any aspect of investment consulting, since the banks are the dominant factor on the country's capital market.

However, he said, he would be willing to consider Ben-Bassat's idea of forcing the banks to do their consulting via subsidiaries.

Panel approves capital gains tax

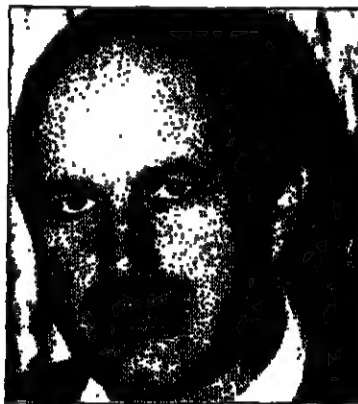
EVELYN GORDON and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the capital gains tax bill, with virtually no changes.

The Likud requested another vote on the bill, which will be held on Monday. It will then go to the plenum for its second and third readings, probably on Tuesday.

The bill, slated to go into effect January 1, allows investors to choose between two taxation options - a 10 percent tax with no offsets of losses or a 20% tax with offsets.

Provident and pension funds, advanced training funds, and ex-



Sallah Tarif was the only coalition MK to vote against the tax.

isting government bonds will be tax-exempt.

The government says the bill is

necessary to correct a distortion in the economy - workers pay tax on their wages, but speculators make money tax-free.

Opponents of the bill argue it will discourage investment at a time when the stock market is already weak.

"The bourse is an important structure... and it is in danger," said Sallah Tarif (Labor), the only coalition MK to vote against the tax. "The tax won't be very useful [in terms of revenue-raising], but it's populist. It [claims to] achieve social justice."

The banks said they would honor the capital gains tax law if it passes, but expressed concern over whether they can adapt their computers in time.

BTG board expected to face challenge from major shareholder

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

THE board of Bio-Technology General Corp. (BTG) is expected to face a challenge over its composition today from a major stockholder who last month came to the rescue of the cash-strapped company.

Elliott Associates L.P., which holds 10.3 percent of the company's stock, stated in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that it believes "it would be in the best interest of the... [company] and its shareholders for there to be a change in the size and composition of the board."

Specifically, Elliott proposed what it calls a "substantial reduction" in the board through the resignation or removal of certain members of management, according to a statement released Monday by BTG.

Elliott did not return repeated calls for comment.

BTG did not specify the names or the number of people to whom Elliott referred, although it did quote him as saying it was not calling for the removal of CEO Sim Fass from the board.

Currently, there are 14 members on the board, three of whom are company employees, said BTG spokeswoman Leah Berkovits.

BTG has its headquarters in Iselin, New Jersey, while manufacturing, research, and development are located in Rehovot.

Elliott also called for the possible addition of one or two new outside directors.

"The board has been mostly company people and not shareholders," one major investor told The Jerusalem Post. "When the company makes decisions, they

are not considering the impact on the securities of the company. They get paychecks. To them, it doesn't make much difference what the stock value is."

Bio-Technology General is listed on NASDAQ, where this week the stock was near its 52-week low of 1 9/16.

Its high in the last 52 weeks is 5 7/8.

Last month, Elliott and three other investors - United Equities Co., Grace Brothers Ltd., and WACO Partners - bought 5.1 million shares of BTG, out of 43 million shares outstanding.

At that time, BTG said "the \$9 million in proceeds will be used to fund ongoing company activities, including research and development."

It was not known whether Elliott was filing for itself alone, or on behalf of the other three major investors as well.

Delta Galil Industries reports rise in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

DELTA Galil Industries announced a jump in third quarter net profits to NIS 6.7 million from NIS 100,000 during the same period last year.

Net profits for the nine-month period fell to NIS 6.8m. from NIS 11.9m.

Revenues went up to NIS 508.8m. from NIS 454.1m. Board chairman Dov Lautman said that during the third quarter there was a significant rise in cash flow for ongoing activities to NIS 11.7m. from NIS 600,000.

The company forecasted 1994 turnover at \$235m. at a board of directors meeting held yesterday.

The company also announced organizational changes.

Dov Lautman will serve as CEO, with Dedi Lederman and Emil Sadeh serving as co-general managers.

Yehuda Reshel will serve as head of Delta's activities in the UK.

Clal Computers reported a

third quarter net loss of NIS 1.8m., compared with a net loss of NIS 365,000 for the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 45.3m. from NIS 23.5m.

Net losses were NIS 2.25m. for the nine-month period, compared with a net gain of NIS 5.1m.

Revenues went up to NIS 129.6m. from NIS 107.5m.

Clal Health and Recreation Resorts (formerly Assuta) announced a drop in third quarter net profits to NIS 885,000 from NIS 1.5m.

Revenues for the period were NIS 2.2m.

Net profits for the nine-month period remained at NIS 2.2m.

Revenues for the period were NIS 2.9m.

The company was acquired by Clal earlier this year.

Kitan announced a 22 percent growth in net profits for the third quarter to NIS 12.3m. from NIS 10.1m.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Africa Israel makes public offering on TASE today: Africa Israel Investments hopes to raise about NIS 150 million through a public offering of its shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange today.

The bank is offering 100,000 units for sale, made up of one ordinary share of NIS 0.1 per value, two warrants and 1,200 convertible bonds. The units will be offered to the public for a minimum price of NIS 1,630. Africa Israel completed the first half of the year with a decrease in net profits to NIS 31.2m. from NIS 61.1m. in the corresponding period last year.

In the near future, Africa Israel plans to raise another NIS 150m. on international markets, most probably in the US or London. The flotation is in line with the policy of principal stockholder Bank Leumi to reduce its 50.3 percent holdings to 25% by the end of 1996.

Israel Discount Bank rejects claims in suit: Israel Discount Bank yesterday rejected claims made in a NIS 75 million lawsuit filed against it by the Ports and Railways Authority on Tuesday in the Jerusalem District Court. The authority claimed that the bank blatantly violated an agreement the parties made and invested a significant portion of workers' pension fund monies in shares.

Super-Sol launches American Food Festival: Super-Sol imported \$4 million in merchandise from the US for its American Food Festival, which was officially launched yesterday evening at a reception at the Herzliya Pithah residence of Jim Larocco, the US charge d'affaires. This is 50 percent more than the value of imports for the previous such festival.

Bezek-Bit's board meets for first time: The board of directors of Bezek-Bit, the public telecommunications company's new subsidiary for the sale of telephone equipment, met yesterday for the first time. It will start marketing its products in the beginning of the year in Bezek business offices, as well as chain stores and malls.

Bezek director-general Yitzhak Kail is chairman of the board. Other members include former MK Uriel Lynn, Eitan Levi, Avi Patir, Moti Yavin, and Gabriel Amir. Bezek-Bit's managing director is Dani Re'el. The company's budget for its first year will be NIS 12 million.

Bank Leumi Mortgage Bank cuts interest rates: Bank Leumi Mortgage Bank yesterday reduced interest rates on its mortgages by 0.3 percent to 0.4% in reaction to Bank Teahot's reduction the day before and First International Bank's decrease last week. Leumi is offering a mortgage of four-five years at an interest rate of 4.45%, a mortgage of six-10 years at 4.5%, mortgages of 11-16 years at 4.7% and a mortgage of 17-20 years at 4.85%.

Teirad receives \$10 million order from Germany's Elmeg: Teirad has received a \$10 million order for its Kohav switchboard from Elmeg of Germany. Teirad general manager Bezael Levin said the contract is for three years, during which time Elmeg holds the option to increase the order. Elmeg will sell Teirad's product under its own name.

Point of Sale raising NIS 10 million on TASE: Point of Sale is in the process of raising a minimum of NIS 10 million in capital on the TASE. The company manufactures software products for management of point of sale terminals in the retail sector.

056 services win petition

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAELI companies supplying 056 services overseas should not be required to collect their fees via credit card, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday; they should be allowed to collect via the phone companies like all such firms in other countries do.

It was ruling on a petition by seven suppliers of 056 services against the Communications Min-

istry's new rule that fees have to be collected by credit card.

The companies claimed this would destroy their business by making it significantly more expensive. Currently, people using international 056 services pay no more than the normal long-distance rate.

Under the ministry's proposed system, however, people would have to pay the supplier's fee, via their credit cards, in addition to the regular long-distance charge.

The ministry argued that the current system might damage Bezek's revenues, hurt overseas consumers and damage Israel's image abroad.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (16.11.94)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.000	5.575	6.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.300	5.000	5.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.500	4.825
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.575	3.000	3.375
Yen (¥ 10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.250

(These rates higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (16.11.94)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.2520	3.2520	100	3.2520	3.2520
German mark	1.8166	1.8166	100	1.8166	1.8166
Pound sterling	4.8816	4.7475	100	4.8816	4.7192
French franc	0.5580	0.5580	100	0.5580	0.5580
Japanese yen (¥100)	3.0500	3.0500	100	3.0500	3.0407
Dutch guilder	1.7085	1.7228	100	1.7085	1.7214
Swiss franc	2.2788	2.2988	100	2.2788	2.2918
Swedish krona	0.4022	0.4079	100	0.4022	0.4062
Norwegian krona	0.4375	0.4437	100	0.4375	0.4403
Denmark krone	0.4902	0.4971	100	0.4902	0.4935
Finland mark	0.6278	0.6368	100	0.6278	0.6336
Canadian dollar	2.1789	2.2106	100	2.1789	2.1990
Australian dollar	2.2275	2.2550	100	2.2275	2.2566
S. African rand	0.4638	0.8567	100	0.4638	0.8521
Belgian franc (10)	0.3530	0.9440	100	0.3530	0.8578
Australian dollar (10)	2.2180	2.7552	100	2.2180	2.7413
Italian Lira (1000)	1.8722	1.8585	100	1.8722	1.8547
Jordanian dinar	—	—	100	—	1.9847
Israeli shekel	—	—	100	—	1.0000
ECU	3.5450	3.8972	100	3.5450	3.7708
Irish punt	4.5982	4.8330	100	4.5982	4.6336
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3041	2.3383	240	2.3041	2.3200

* These rates vary according to bank.

— Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

es head wards igh CPI

TOCK MARKET

LUMBROSO

181.11
-2.11%

not index

148.95
-1.57%

Karam index

mented by the finance ministry, did nothing to instill confidence in the government's ability to manage the problem.

The immediate concern on the part of investors was whether the central bank will raise interest rates again.

The prime rate stands at 17%, which places interest rates on overdrafts at some 22% and interest rates for AAA corporate borrowers at about 18.5%-19%. Considering that wholesale prices are now running at a yearly inflation rate of barely 12%, this makes credit expensive indeed.

The security of the day was IDB Bankholding, which was the most-traded security on the market. It registered a decline of 4.3% on a turnover of NIS 10.2 million, 9% of total trading on the market.

Africa Israel continued to attract attention on the last trading day before the issue today. The shares are trading at a price 10% lower than that of the issue.

The oil exploration issues are heading south: Abjad declined 9.8%, Avner 10.1% (trades for 6.2 agorot), and Isramco 5.5% (trades for 5.2 agorot).

Investment Discount declined 4% following the publication of disappointing third quarter results. Mul-T-Lock fell 9.3%.

On the rising side, La Nationale went up 5% and Tefahot rose 2% following good results.

Traders and money managers are left pondering where the market is heading. This concern is enhanced by the fact that the November Maof Options expire next Thursday, which promises interesting trading days until then.

index closes nts higher

MARKET ROUNDUP

down 85.02 points to 19,391.68.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks weathered a nearly day-long bout of profit-taking and some late-session buying tipped the market into positive ground by the close.

The Hang Seng Index, which fell as much as 61 points in morning trade, ended 26.58 points higher at 9,592.24.

SYDNEY - The Australian sharemarket finished a touch weaker on healthy turnover, as negative sentiment from bond and futures markets spilled over into stocks and pushed the market off its highs.

The All Ordinaries Index ended 1.1 points down at 1940.3.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended mostly higher as gains in London offered direction and a softer financial rand boosted prices. But uncertainty about the gold price and a lack of other fresh factors slowed activity and capped gold shares.

The Overall Index closed 33.7 points better at 5,898.3, the Industrial index was up 42.2 at 6,850.2, and the Gold index 1.2 off at 2,166.9.

moderate gains

FEET REPORT

formed the blue chip gauge throughout the session until a big burst of buying in the last 30 minutes of trading propelled stock indexes decisively higher.

The Dow Jones average of 38 industrial stocks rose 18.84 to 3,845.20.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 7 to 6 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,040 up, 1,206 down and 679 unchanged.

	YEN	Sfr	Ffr
63.48/46	0.8411/14	3.4336/41	
154.48/61	2.0482/08	8.3643/28	
	1.3258/71	5.4118/78	
75.40/45		4.0801/40	
18.45/50	0.2442/51	—	

Prices from 22:00 local time

Superior Israel outclasses Azeris

DEREK FAITAL

A DREAM goal in the 52nd minute by Ronnie Rosenthal sealed a 2-0 away victory for the national soccer team over Azerbaijan last night in their Group 1 European Nations Championship qualifier played in Trabzon, Turkey.

Ronnen Harazi overcame a high fever and the Azeri defense to capture his fourth goal in three games in the tournament, to give Israel a 29th-minute lead. Despite a number of fine chances, the Azeris were unable to find the quality of finish needed to beat Ronnie Ginsburg who played superbly in Israel's goal.

Although the Israelis were unable to muster a three-goal winning margin that would have taken them to the top of Group 1, the victory keeps Shlomo Scharf's side in second place and still unbeaten, level on points with Romania, but with a one-goal deficit in terms of goal difference.

In last night's other Group 1 qualifier, Poland drew 0-0 with France, a result which further consolidates Israel's position in the group, and leaves the Israelis three points clear of the third-placed Poles.

Despite the final result, a run of defensive errors nearly spelled disaster for the Israelis. Straight from the kick-off Ginsburg was compelled to perform a stunning reflex save to deny Azerbaijan's Nasim Suleymanov from close range after an attempted pass out of defense by captain Nir Klinger was intercepted. Fortune played its part as Ginsburg's parry bounced onto the woodwork, then finally out of harm's way.

Seconds later it was the turn of Hapoel Holon's Alexander Zhidkov to breathe a sigh of relief as Ronnen Harazi drove over the Azeri keeper's crossbar after Tal Benita lobbed a fifty-meter pass straight into his path.

The Israelis continued to look uncertain in front of the opposition's goal, and the Azeris produced three more dangerous attempts on Ginsburg's goal in the opening quarter of the match. Samir Alekberov came tantalizingly close but his shot from point-blank range on 17 minutes caught a deflection and went out of play.

Azerbaijan pressed forward in



UNSTOPPABLE - An Azeri defender tries to hold up Israel midfielder Eyal Berkowitz in last night's match in Trabzon. (Reuters)

numbers, playing intricate passing soccer in midfield while the Israelis struggled to keep possession.

Banin showed more spirit for the tackle than his defenders, but his third clumsy challenge in close succession against Shahin Denayev resulted in a yellow card.

In the 25th-minute the match began to swing Israel's way. A break-out marshaled by Banin sent Marco Babul into space on the far right wing. Babul's low cross was met by Eyal Berkowitz, who whipped the ball against Zhidkov's near post.

Four minutes later, Babul was upended after a forward forage on the other flank. Haim Revivo sent a quality cross into the box from the resulting free kick towards Ronnen Harazi. Surprisingly, the Betar Jerusalem striker was unchallenged as he jumped high and headed coolly across the goal beyond the helpless Zhidkov.

Harazi's goal temporarily forced Azerbaijan on the ropes. In the

following 10 minutes Ronnen Harazi and Rosenthal both missed good opportunities.

Towards the end of the first period, the Azeris revived their flagging spirits. In the 39th minute Alon Harazi and Klinger fouled up in defense letting in Vila Asimov. A goal looked certain but somehow Ginsburg flew off his line and parried away Asimov's effort to the disbelief of the Azerbaijani fans.

A rough challenge on Rosenthal two minutes after the interval brought a yellow card for Tarlan Ahmedov.

Five minutes later the Tottenham forward who has seen precious little first-team action this season, produced what was arguably the best individual goal in all the 18 European qualifiers played yesterday.

Rosenthal won possession on the edge of his area by tackling Denayev. With his head down he then began a 70-meter charge forward

with the ball. Lightning speed and sheer muscular strength took him over the halfway line and past three challenges. The Azeri defenders expected Rosenthal to pass but he continued to surge ahead. Finally Zhidkov sped off his line to win the ball, but the Israeli forward jugged past the keeper, and into the area. He then overcame a last-gasp attempt to clear the ball and drilled his shot into the net beyond the legs of a sprawling defender.

The goal was sweet reward for the veteran who received strong criticism for missing a number of chances in the squad's previous match against Slovakia.

During the next 20 minutes the Azeris showed a fair amount of resolution as they mounted a wave of attacks on the Israeli goal. Suleymanov hit the post from a 55th minute free kick that beat the Israeli wall, then center forward Vila Asimov sent two shots within a whisker of goal with Ginsburg beaten.

As the match wore on it became clear that this was to be Israel's night, and substitutions by both sides had little effect on the play.

In the 88th minute a deliberate handball by Ahmedov earned the Azeri defender his second yellow card and a sending off. As he marched towards the dressing room his side's hopes of salvaging a draw vanished with him.

Teams: Azerbaijan: 1-Alexander Zhidkov; 2-Tarlan Ahmedov; 3-Tarlan Cabulov; 4-Tarlan Ahmedov; 5-Arif Esadov; 6-Lev Mayarov (Agayev 46th minute); 7-Yonas Huseynov; 8-Shahin Denayev (Rizayev 77th); 9-Vila Asimov; 10-Nasim Suleymanov; 11-Samir Alekberov.

Israel: 1-Ronnie Ginsburg; 2-Marco Babul; 3-Moshe Gluz; 4-Alon Harazi; 5-Alon Harazi (Amir Shehah 82nd); 6-Nir Klinger; 7-Tal Benita; 8-Haim Revivo; 9-Eyal Berkowitz (Avi Nissim 68th); 10-Ronnen Harazi; 11-Ronnie Rosenthal.

Red card: Ahmedov (88th)

European Nations' Championship qualifying group 1

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Romania	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Israel	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Poland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
France	3	0	0	3	0	8	0
Slovakia	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

10-man France holds on to draw in Poland

ZABRZE - France held on to a goalless draw in Poland yesterday despite playing with only 10 men for almost all the second half of its vital European championship Group one qualifier.

Midfielder Christian Karembeu, who had been shown a yellow card in the first half, was given his marching orders in the 50th minute after he brought down Roman Kosecki from behind.

Driving rain and a muddy pitch made for heavy going and few chances were created at either end in a dull match which neither side could afford to lose.

France started brightly enough but soon ran out of steam in the tricky conditions and Poland, prompted by Atletico Madrid's experienced midfielder Kosecki, took charge though it rarely threatened to break down the French defense.

It was France's third goalless draw in as many games in the group.

Albania 1, Germany 2. Germany overcame the first hurdle in its Group seven with a comfortable but unconvincing 2-1 win over lowly Albania yesterday.

Juergen Klinsmann gave the Germans their expected lead in the 16th minute when he eluded his marker to head in a cross from defender Stefan Reuter.

Cyprus 2, Armenia 0. The semi-professionals of Cyprus defeated Armenia 2-0 for their first victory in 26 years in a European soccer championship series match.

In Trabzon: Azerbaijan 0, Israel 2 (0-1). Scorers: Ronnen Harazi (30), Ronnie Rosenthal (51). Attendance: 2,000.

In Thessaloniki: Georgia 0, Wales 0 (0-0). Scorers: Teimur Kusbayev (31st, 49th mins), Georgi Kinkladze (41st), Gocha Gogichidze (59th), Shota Arveladze (67th). Attendance: 45,000.

In Sofia: Bulgaria 1, Moldova 1 (1-0). Scorers: Bulgaria - Hristo Stoichkov (45, 85), Krasimir Balakov (65), Emil Kostadinov (88). Romania - Sergiu Cusca (30). Attendance: 50,000.

In Limassol: Cyprus 2, Armenia 0 (1-0). Scorers: Andreas Soteriou (30), Costas Paschalidis (67). Attendance: 8,000.

In Maribor: Slovenia 1, Lithuania 2 (0-0). Scorers: Slovenia - Zlatko Zaharic (55), Lithuania - Sarkisovs (64), Zna (87).

In Minsk: Belarus 0, Norway 4 (0-2). Scorers: Hemming Berg (34), Oyvind Loevhaugen (39), Lars Bohinen (53), Kjell Rekdal (83). Attendance: 8,000.

In Athens: Greece 2, San Marino 0 (1-0). Scorers: Nikos Machlas (21), Costas Frantziskos (84). Attendance: 15,000. (Reuters/AP)

Navratilova bids heartfelt adieu to tennis

NEW YORK (Reuters) - As the final curtain came down on Martina Navratilova's phenomenal career on Tuesday night, the sports legend was already preparing to start a new life away from the tennis court yesterday.

"Tennis has given me such a wonderful life with so many wonderful memories," Navratilova said after being soundly beaten by Gabriela Sabatini 6-4 6-2 at the

Virginia Slims Championships. "I mean to enjoy myself next year and try to figure out what to do with the rest of my life. I'm going to kick back, take some nice vacations and see what tugs at my heart strings."

"I'll see what's really closest to my heart and make sure whatever I get involved in that I can make a difference," she said, citing gay rights, women's rights and environmental issues as causes she will have more time to champion.

That she made a difference in tennis is an understatement. The 38-year-old left-hander is one of those rare athletes who forever changed their sport.

"She brought women's tennis to another level," said Jana Novotna of her former countrywoman.

"She played a different kind of game than anybody else and because she was so good and in such good shape...all the other players also had to become better," Novotna said.

Navratilova was the first female tennis player to pump iron, becoming an imposing physical specimen. She took what was often a game of long, boring baseline rallies and introduced attacking serve and volley play to women's tennis - a style she continually perfected.

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Gordon leads Israel over Spain

JOEL GORDIN

HELPED by sensational shooting by Adi Gordon, the national basketball team scored a heartwarming 83-78 win over Spain last night.

The game, the last in the semifinals round of the European Nations' tournament, was, strictly speaking, a formality. Both countries had already secured participation in the tournament finals to be held next year in Greece. However, Israel broke Spain's winning streak in pool D. It was also the first time an Israeli team has beaten Spain in an official fixture on Spanish soil.

On the down side, Israel did not win by enough to take first place in the pool. Although both countries ended with a 5-1 record, Spain won its first game against Israel by 10 points and thus takes first place. Israel is second, ahead of the Czech Republic and Turkey.

Israel played without Doron Shefer, who has returned to Connecticut while Spanish coach Lulu Sanez did not have his best team available, with Antonio Martinez and Giordy Viacampa both on the injured list.

The blue & whites started with a storm and bounced ahead to 12-3 after three minutes. Captain Doron Jamchee was red-hot, shooting 10 of the 12.

Spain's young playmakers Giordy Solar and Anson Rodriguez could not match the speed of Gordon and Guy Goodes and Israel kept its 10-point lead through most of the half. In fact, had it not been for poor free shooting by Nadav Henefeld and Ofer Fleischer and some offensive blunders by an over-eager Goodes, Israel could have finished the half with a lead of up to 20 points.

The Spanish attack was uncoordinated and they lost possession no less than 11 times. Israel took the first half 43-31. Immediately after the resumption of play, Jamchee sank a three-pointer. The Spaniards sank nine points in succession and trimmed the lead to only 44-40.

This scoring spree seemed to damage the Israeli confidence. The main Israeli lapse was in defense, where Brad Leaf and Jamchee left gaping holes which Rodriguez, Juan Orenga, Martinez Farran and Jose Angula exploited to the full.

At this stage, it was only the spirited Gordon who kept Israel in the picture, scoring a couple of three-pointers from near the half-way mark.

Coach Zvi Sherf replaced Jamchee and Leaf with Goodes and Daniel, but the home team was now dictating the course of the game. It came within two points of Israel's lead on three occasions, but each time Israel's spirited guards, Gordon and Goodes, kept slugging away to keep the tiny lead.

Leaf came back on and at last found his form. So did Tomer Steinhilber who had been dominant until now, and Israel pushed ahead to 80-70. Spain then scored six points in succession (80-76) and things looked dangerous.

However, the ubiquitous Gordon made yet another jump shot and followed this by sinking another and Israel was high and dry. With 11 seconds to go the team sensibly allowed the Spaniards to play the clock down and get a final basket (83-78).

A great Gordon scored 25, followed by Jamchee with 18 (mainly in the first half), Steinhilber 12, Goodes 10, Leaf 8. For Spain, Farran made 23.

Team Israel: 1-Adi Gordon; 2-Doron Shefer; 3-Tal Benita; 4-Alon Harazi; 5-Alon Harazi (Amir Shehah 82nd); 6-Nir Klinger; 7-Tal Benita; 8-Haim Revivo; 9-Eyal Berkowitz (Avi Nissim 68th); 10-Ronnen Harazi; 11-Ronnie Rosenthal.

Team Spain: 1-Juan Orenga; 2-Juan Orenga; 3-Juan Orenga; 4-Juan Orenga; 5-Juan Orenga; 6-Juan Orenga; 7-Juan Orenga; 8-Juan Orenga; 9-Juan Orenga; 10-Juan Orenga; 11-Juan Orenga.

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Unstoppable Becker routs Sampras

FRANKFURT (AP) - In a clash of past champions, Boris Becker produced one of the best matches of his already impressive year and frustrated top-ranked Pete Sampras with a 7-5, 7-5 victory yesterday at the IBM/ATP Tour World Championship.

Becker posted his second straight win over the No. 1 in the world and raised his round-robin record at the \$3-million tournament to 2-0.

"He was just too good, that's the best I've seen him play against

me," Sampras said after his loss in one hour, 43 minutes.

"I really didn't have any chances."

Earlier, Michael Chang crushed Alberto Berasategui 6-1, 6-0. Berasategui, who has won three games in two matches, said he was suffering from a wrist injury and only played to protect his ranking.

Stefan Edberg, No. 8, made a successful start by beating fourth-ranked Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4.

Sampras now has to beat Edberg today to stay alive. Ivanisevic, 0-2, a semifinalist the last two years, was eliminated.

Becker also beat Sampras en route to lifting the Stockholm Open in the last week of October and is now 5-5 against the American in his career.

"I don't know if it was my best match against him, but it was definitely one of my best of the year for me," said the German, who outaced Sampras 15-11.

In other matches today, Agassi plays Chang and Bruguera meets Berasategui.

Mattingly wins 9th Gold Glove

NEW YORK (AP) - Don Mattingly won his record ninth Gold Glove at first base and New York Yankees teammate Wade Boggs earned his first-ever at third base in American League awards announced Tuesday.

Ken Griffey Jr. of Seattle became the first AL outfielder to win five straight Gold Gloves and California pitcher Mark Langston won his sixth overall.

Toronto second baseman Roberto Alomar, Cleveland shortstop Omar Vizquel, outfielders Devon White of Toronto and Ken Griffey Jr. of Cleveland and Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez all were repeat winners from last season.

The Gold Gloves have been presented by Rawlings since 1957 after a vote by managers and coaches. This year, the vote was moved up and conducted shortly before the players' strike began August 12.

Mattingly's ninth award, and fourth in a row, moved him past George Scott for the most in the AL at first base. Keith Hernandez holds the NL record with 11 at the position.

"I pride myself on defense and felt this year that we were strong as a team defensively," Mattingly said.

Mattingly led the majors with a fielding percentage of .998 this

season, committing only two errors.

Boggs, known much more as a hitter than a fielder since he broke into the majors with Boston in 1982, had a .962 fielding percentage this year. He has worked hard on his defense during the years, often taking 100 grounders in practice before games.

"I really thought I would never win a Rawlings Gold Glove," he said. "I credit this award to a lot of patience and perseverance. With five batting titles, I wanted to prove that I could play defense."

In the National League, Cy Young winner Greg Maddux and MVP Jeff Bagwell added to their honors when they won Gold Gloves.

The San Francisco Giants placed three players - outfielders Barry Bonds and Darren Lewis and third baseman Matt Williams.

Other picked for the team of top fielders were Houston second baseman Craig Biggio, Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin, Montreal outfielder Marquis Grissom and St. Louis catcher Tom Pagnozzi.

Maddux, the Atlanta ace, and Bonds each won his fifth straight Gold Glove. Bagwell, who led major league first basemen in assists, and Biggio became the first Astros to win Gold Gloves since Cesar Cedeno in 1976.

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MKs cross party lines to pass preliminary anti-poverty bills

THE government was left with egg on its face yesterday after coalition MKs joined forces with the opposition to approve in preliminary reading three opposition bills aimed at alleviating poverty.

A fourth bill on the same subject, initiated by Labor faction chairman Eli Dayan, received the reluctant support of Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, and was approved in preliminary reading without opposition.

The bills dealt with financial benefits in the areas of education and culture, transportation, housing and taxation for the poor, and particularly for families with more than four children.

Dayan's bill was the subject of a political crisis on Monday, when Shas joined the opposition in a no-confidence vote after Shohat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected its demand for a promise to support the bill in yesterday's vote.

However, yesterday morning, during a special meeting of the coalition executive, Shohat agreed to withdraw his opposition to the bill after being convinced that La-

DAN IZENBERG

bor lacked the majority to defeat it. Shas, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the Democratic Arab Party had all declared they would join the opposition to support the legislation. Dayan told Shohat Labor would look bad if it appeared to be opposing anti-poverty legislation, all the more so since it would also be on the losing side.

In exchange for endorsement of Dayan's bill, the coalition and Shas MKs were supposed to vote against the opposition bills, proposed by Yitzhak Levy (NRP), Moshe Katav (Likud) and Yosef Azran (formally Shas). The agreement fell apart, and all three opposition bills were passed. Two of the three had massive coalition support.

Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) said he voted for the opposition bills "because there was no difference between Dayan's proposal and the others." Shohat's demand to differentiate between the legislation was "illogical," he added. Shohat said he opposed the pro-

posed legislation because there was no means criteria. All families with more than four children, whether rich or poor, are eligible for the benefits, he stressed.

The proposals contained in the four bills include the following provisions:

- free education for all three- and four-year-olds in large families.
- discounts of 30-70 percent for public transportation
- discounts in educational fees throughout primary, secondary and post-secondary school.
- discounts in entry fees to cultural facilities
- income and property tax discounts for the poor and for all large families.

Dayan told the plenum he had reached a compromise with Shohat whereby only three of the chapters in his bill, dealing with education, transportation and property tax, would be implemented in the first phase.

He said his bill "offered a genuine solution in the fight against poverty."

Finance committee defers vote on Clalit recovery plan

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday deferred a vote on the Kupat Holim Clalit recovery plan, saying it needed more information about the government's plans for the future of the health system before it could decide on the wisdom of transferring Clalit's hospitals to the government.

Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said he plans to summon Health Minister Ephraim Sneh for a meeting on the subject next week. The final vote should also be held sometime next week, Gal said.

According to the recovery plan, the government will receive the health fund's hospital buildings and equipment in exchange for the NIS 3 billion it is giving the fund over the next few years. Clalit will continue to manage the hospitals, but it will pay rent

for the buildings and equipment.

Opinions on the committee range from those of Dan Tichon (Likud), who says there is no choice but for the government to also operate the hospitals, to those who oppose any government involvement.

Gal said he had originally thought the hospitals should be transferred to the government. However, he said, several experts have since warned him that this would create a monopoly for the government hospitals, enabling them to jack up fees.

They could also increase their revenues by keeping people in for a longer time, said Haim Kaufman (Likud).

Michael Eitan (Likud) blasted the plan as being "anti-privatization."

"Instead of selling assets, [the Treasury] is spending money to acquire additional government property," he said.

The Treasury's position, Gal said, is pass the recovery program now and decide what to do with the hospital system later.

"But the question is whether that shouldn't be decided now," he said.

Another question worth considering, Gal said, is whether it would be better for the health system to have several health funds of roughly equal size - instead of one giant like Clalit insuring 70% of the population - and whether this would be possible to achieve.

Meanwhile, Clalit's supervisory council, the body that chooses Clalit's board and senior managers, yesterday approved the recovery plan for the health fund.

Court: Discount to Clalit 'appears to be illegal'

EVELYN GORDON

THE government's decision to give discounts at state-owned hospitals to Kupat Holim, but not to other health funds, appears to be illegal, Deputy Supreme Court President Aharon Barak said yesterday.

However, he nevertheless suggested a compromise whereby the other funds would give up their claim to the discount for 1993 and 1994, and receive it only in 1995.

Both the funds and the state expressed willingness to negotiate some such compromise; the court will therefore postpone further

hearings on the case to see whether the negotiations bear fruit.

The High Court of Justice was hearing a petition by the Maccabi and Meuhedet health funds against the 4% discount given to Kupat Holim as part of the 1993 recovery program.

Maccabi and Meuhedet argued that the discount discriminates against them. It also increases their costs, they claimed, because the hospitals must make up the shortfall in income by charging ev-

eryone higher fees.

In response, the government argued that Kupat Holim is different from the other funds in two ways: it is several times bigger, and it is on the verge of financial collapse. Both of these justified the discount, the state said.

It also denied that the other funds were paying any more as a result.

However, Justices Barak, Yitzhak Zamir and Eliezer Goldberg appeared to have difficulty with the state's arguments.

"This appears to be an illegal involvement of the government in the economy," said Barak.

While no one argues that the state has the right to help Kupat Holim, he said, it should be done by direct aid. By lowering prices to one fund, he explained, the state creates a competitive disadvantage for the other funds, and therefore distorts the economy.

However, the justices appeared to give weight to government attorney Uzi Fogelman's statement that to retroactively give Maccabi and Meuhedet the discount for 1993 and 1994, when it has not been budgeted for, would be a problem - and one of the petitioners' own making, since they filed the petition a year after the three-year recovery program was approved. The justices therefore suggested the compromise.



Shri Shivraj Patil, Speaker of India's lower house of parliament, talks with President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi yesterday. (Itamar Hersh)

Indians' visit shows warming of ties

BATSHEVA TSUR

ISRAEL'S ties with India are "the warmest with any Asian country since the heyday of relations with Burma [in the 1960s]," a senior Israeli official said at the close of a five-day visit by the highest-ranking Indian delegation to arrive here to date.

Shri Shivraj Patil, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India's lower house of parliament, who headed the delegation, is due to return home today after having met President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss.

"The climate between the two peoples is very conducive for cooperation... India and Israel are on the same wavelength," Patil told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. He said that he, and members of the delegation, had felt the affection and goodwill shown them by their Israeli hosts and that this was a mutual feeling.

Patil is a former defense minister and also

served as minister for science, technology and atomic energy. The delegation included Vidra Charan Shukla, minister for parliamentary affairs and water resources, four MPs and several officials.

In talks with Rabin, the prime minister reviewed developments in the peace process and touched on the problems of terrorism, Patil said, noting that the two countries saw eye-to-eye on the need to contain terrorism worldwide. Asked about reports of Israeli arms deals with India and defense cooperation, Patil would merely say: "We know Israel is a strong country from the point of view of defense." He refused to elaborate.

The two countries are believed to share a common concern about the possible future nuclearization of their respective areas of the world and the threat nuclear arms could pose in the hands of fundamentalists.

Since diplomatic ties were established two years ago, "the goodwill is being translated into practical shape," Patil said, and there are already bilateral agreements in the fields of tourism, science and technology, medicine, agriculture and civil aviation. A trade agreement is to be signed in December. He said, and three Israeli ministers will visit Delhi before the end of the year. Four Indian ministers have already visited Israel.

In 1993, trade stood at \$350 million and is expected to reach \$600m. this year, he added. The two countries are planning to embark on joint ventures locally and abroad, Patil said. India recently acquiesced to the appointment of an Israeli honorary consul in Calcutta.

Patil expressed the hope that contacts at non-governmental levels would likewise move forward quickly noting that some 10,000 Israelis had visited India in the past year and almost half that number of Indian visitors had come here.

Gov't passes NIS 5.6b. supplementary budget

DAN IZENBERG and JOSE ROSENFELD

THE government easily turned back all opposition alternative proposals to the NIS 5.59 billion supplementary budget and approved the law in final reading by a vote of 45 to 35.

In a speech before the vote, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that during the government's two years in office, unemployment had fallen from 11.4% to 8% and was expected to fall to 7.3% percent in the final quarter of 1994.

Shohat added that productivity would increase by 7.5% percent this year and that investments in machinery and equipment had risen by 17%.

He also addressed criticism that overly generous wage increments in the public sector had caused inflation and threatened to raise wages in the private sector. According to Shohat, the increments

had been given in professions that do not exist in the private sector and there are no signs so far of high wage demands in that sector.

Shohat said the supplementary budget covered part of the wage increases given out this year, and more money for industrial investment and road construction.

Shohat added that the extra expenditures would not increase the

budget deficit because government income had risen as a result of extra revenues generated by unexpected economic activity.

The supplemental 1994 budget will also help rescue Kupat Holim Clalit, the defense industries, and local governments from spiraling deficits.

The budget also included NIS 574 million to pay for IDF redeployment as a result of the agreements with the Palestinians.

KNESSET BRIEFS

GSS scores successes, Sarid says

The General Security Service has scored "important successes" in the past few days, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a member of the ministerial committee on the GSS told the Knesset yesterday.

Sarid added that the head of the GSS, who has been abroad on study leave for the past few months, will return to Israel in the next two or three weeks.

Local quota proposed for ITV

Israel Television would be obliged by law to devote one-third of its air time to local programs, according to a bill passed in preliminary reading. The bill was initiated by Dedi Zucker (Meretz), Dalia Itzik (Labor) and Benny Begin (Likud).

Debate demanded on reserve duty

Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) asked the chairman of the State Control Committee to summon Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak to a committee discussion on a fair allocation of the burden of reserve army duty. Cohen says 30 percent of reservists perform 80 percent of reserve duty.

Gur: Pity poor defense workers

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said thousands of employees in the military industries had suffered as a result of the fact that the domestic welfare budget had increased while the military budget had remained static or even shrunk. He was replying to seven motions to the agenda on the plight of Israel Industries (TAAS).

Dan Izenberg

Ben-Eliezer: Ministry aiming to build more small apartments

HOUSING Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said yesterday that he would hasten the release of land held by the Israel Lands Administration (ILA) in order to provide housing solutions.

By the end of the year, said Ben-Eliezer, ILA land will be available for the construction of 50,000 housing units. Only 11,000 units were erected on ILA land in 1993.

At the same time, he said, the ministry would seek to increase the pace of construction without interfering with the free market. Ben-Eliezer, who was speaking at a Tel Aviv workshop for stu-

dents at the Financial College, said Housing Ministry policy will now be to build more smaller apartments, which can be purchased by young couples at reasonable prices.

All of the contractors building in Modi'in have pledged that at least 25% of the apartments constructed will be three-room apartments, he said.

Reviewing the ongoing goals of the ministry, Ben-Eliezer said investment would continue on roads and interchanges. He said he believed construction would begin on the Trans-Israel Highway in 1995.

(Itim)

ETV to supply Bosnian TV with Israeli programs

LIAT COLLINS

RESIDENTS of battle-scarred Bosnia will soon have a chance to view the television character who helped Israelis laugh during the Gulf War.

Educational Television's popular Zehu Zeh figure Baba Baruch is likely to appear on some of the dozens of cassettes being sent to Bosnian television after the public station in Sarajevo asked for copies of Israeli programs. The Bosnians have all but stopped producing programs because of the lack of equipment, personnel and cash created by the civil war.

The original contact between the two stations was established

in August when a group of Bosnian mothers visited Israel to see their children who are now living here. One of the mothers carried an official letter asking for assistance which she gave to Sara Gaon, a former Bosnian television employee now working for ETV.

Among the programs which will be sent are *Parpar Nehmad*, *Shalom Sesame* (Sesame Street for Israelis abroad), documentaries, programs on dance, and Russian. The cassettes will be transported to Sarajevo via the Bosnian consul in Vienna.

Music association sues for copyright infringement

Acum, the association of musicians, composers, songwriters and producers, last week won NIS 10,000 in damages against a Bat Yam pub for playing music without paying for the copyright. The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court also ordered Nissim Cohen of Pub Hamidraha to pay court expenses.

Copyright laws are the only ones in Israel in which the plaintiffs do not have to prove they have suffered harm in order to prove the damage.

ACUM director Ran Kedari said the organization was cracking down on pubs, wedding halls, and discos which played music without the copyright.

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